

CUESTA

A Niagara Escarpment Commission Publication 1984

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From the Editor

In this edition, we provide our readers with an update on the plan approval process together with a profile of the key Minister involved in the plan approval process, the Hon. Norman W. Sterling, Q.C., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

In addition, **Cuesta** focuses on Escarpment recreation at its best, from the underwater adventure available at Fathom Five Provincial Park to the rock-climbing challenges of Rattlesnake Point. We also feature the up-and-coming sport of orienteering which is superbly suited to the rolling terrain of the Niagara Escarpment.

And for the history buff, **Cuesta** features the rich and fascinating past of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment. We invite our readers to follow the events of October 13, 1812 when American and British forces clashed on the Escarpment heights above Queenston; to discover the spa era of St. Catharines when this Niagara Region city was the toast of nineteenth-century health resorts; to tour the historic Niagara Peninsula from the *Forty* to the *Twelve*; and to visit mysterious Cave Springs near Beamsville where pure spring water is protected by a resident 'witch'.

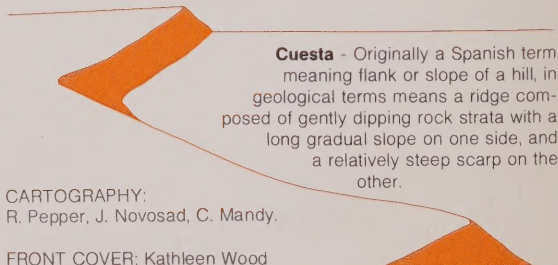
Cuesta also features two Escarpment-based industries that are innovative and unique in their fields. Equinox Adventures offers the 'thrill of a lifetime' through high adventure, recreation courses with an emphasis on safety. Just in time for the '84 crop, **Cuesta** highlights the Chudleigh Apple Farm located within the shadow of the Escarpment.

And finally, **Cuesta** highlights Escarpment artist, Tom Thomson, a native of Leith, who offered Ontarians a new understanding and appreciation of their wilderness areas.

Cuesta takes this opportunity to officially welcome Frank G. Shaw as acting director of the Niagara Escarpment Commission. His appointment in August 1983 filled the position left vacant by Ronald J. Vrancart who is currently on special education leave. Mr. Shaw, 39, was formerly Deputy Regional Director for the Ministry of Natural Resources, Central Region. An honours graduate of the University of Western Ontario in Biology and Chemistry, Mr. Shaw is also a registered professional geologist.

A special thanks to N.E.C. staff and to those who have assisted in our research.

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From the Chairman

On June 30, 1983 in accordance with The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and on behalf of the Niagara Escarpment Commission, it was my pleasure to submit the Final Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

That final planning document was the result of a ten-year planning effort to draft a workable plan for the Niagara Escarpment that speaks for the people of Ontario; provides for the preservation of this significant provincial resource; and strikes an equitable balance between provincial and local interests and between public and private interests.

No other plan previously prepared in North America has had the benefit of as much public and municipal participation in its preparation. And certainly our democratic traditions have been well served by the provisions in The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act which have ensured such participation.

The Final Proposed Plan comprehensively addresses the issues that were raised during public forums and contains policies which, when properly implemented, will benefit the people of Ontario. The Niagara Escarpment Commission unanimously endorsed the Plan and submitted it for the Government's consideration with the conviction that it fulfils the purpose of The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act "... to provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and lands in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment and ensure only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment ..."

It is essential to view the planning mandate of the Niagara Escarpment Commission as part of a pattern of conservation implemented by the Province in the last three decades to protect significant natural resources.

Indeed the foresight of the Ontario Government was evident nearly a century ago when it established the

Niagara Parks Commission to prevent the exploitation of Niagara Falls; subsequently, other commissions and agencies were formed to protect watersheds and greenbelt areas within the Province. The St. Lawrence Seaway Commission, eight Conservation Authorities, the Niagara Escarpment Commission, the Parkway Belt and, more recently, the Natural Heritage League are all integral components of a preservation program for resources of provincial significance.

The Commission realizes, however, that an approved Niagara Escarpment Plan will be of little benefit to Ontario unless the Government makes a serious long-term commitment to implement the Plan.

And, in the Commission's opinion, an essential component of the implementation of a Niagara Escarpment Plan would be the formation of a sister agency, the Niagara Escarpment Trust, to administer the land acquisition component of the Plan which would be financed from a \$25 million public endowment to be known as the Niagara Escarpment Fund.

The successful implementation of an approved Plan will ultimately safeguard the future of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment corridor.

Ivor McMullin, Chairman,
Niagara Escarpment Commission

Planning Process Results in Final Proposals

On June 30, 1983, the Niagara Escarpment Commission presented its Final Proposed Plan for the 725-kilometre Niagara Escarpment corridor to the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

The 49-page plan and accompanying maps contain land-use policies for an approximate 1,860 square-kilometre (718 square-mile) area that extends through 46 municipalities from Queenston on the Niagara River to Tobermory at the tip of the Bruce Peninsula. The plan was the result of a ten-year planning effort to meet the purpose and objectives of The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act while also giving consideration to comments received and the Report of the Hearing Officers.

Highlights of the Final Proposed Plan included the Commission's recommendations and proposals for:

- three major land-use designations — Escarpment Natural Areas, Escarpment Protection Areas and Escarpment Rural Areas — with accompanying policies to apply to 90 per cent of the area of the plan;
- creation of a 40,420 ha (101,050 ac.) Niagara Escarpment Parks System comprising 125 parks of which 75 per cent of the land is publicly owned;
- identification of 10,190 ha (25,470 ac.) as suitable for acquisition from willing landowners for completion of the Niagara Escarpment Parks System;
- stabilization of the Bruce Trail through a consultative process involving landowners, municipal councils, the Bruce Trail Association and the Government of Ontario;
- a Pits and Quarries Restrictive Zone comprising the Escarpment Natural and Escarpment Protection Area designations in which new pits and quarries, with minor exceptions, will be prohibited;
- policies supportive of agriculture and farming;
- a Niagara Escarpment Permit System as the preferred method of land-use regulation;
- staged delegation of the administration of the Niagara Escarpment Permit System to counties, regions or cities outside regional municipalities.

In addition, the Niagara Escarpment Commission recommended the formation of a sister agency, the **Niagara Escarpment Trust**, to administer the land acquisition component of the Niagara Escarpment Plan which will be financed from a \$25 million public endow-



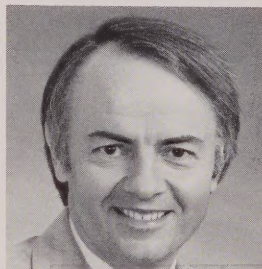
Ivor McMullin presents Final Proposed Plan to the Hon. George McCague, Chairman of Management Board.

ment to be known as the **Niagara Escarpment Fund**.

The Final Proposed Plan covers approximately 36 per cent of the 5,200 square-kilometre (2,000 square-mile) area originally assigned to the Commission by the Ontario Government in 1974. This Plan was preceded by two other planning documents: the Preliminary Proposals released in 1978, and the Proposed Plan, 1979, which was followed by twenty-six months of public hearings before three hearing officers seconded from the Ontario Municipal Board.

Currently, the Minister responsible for reviewing the Plan, is considering the Hearing Officers' Report and the Final Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment before submitting his recommendations to the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Should the recommendation of the Minister to the Lieutenant Governor in Council be other than that the report or reports of the hearing officers be approved, then the Minister will give public notice to this effect. Within a twenty-one day period representations in writing can be made by anyone concerned to the Ontario Cabinet. Final approval of the Niagara Escarpment Plan rests with the Ontario Cabinet.

The assignment before the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development is complex, diverse and pertinent as his recommendations will ultimately determine the fate of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment as a continuous natural environment. This pivotal role is held by the Hon. Norman W. Sterling, Q.C., who holds degrees in both law and civil engineering. Mr. Sterling was first elected to the



Norman W. Sterling, Q.C.

Ontario Legislature in 1977 and has been a Parliamentary Assistant to the Attorney General and Provincial Secretary for Justice prior to being appointed Provincial Secretary for Resources Development on July 6, 1983.

Chairman Ivor McMullin, speaking on behalf of the members of the Commission, wishes him well in the task before him and notes that the approval of a Niagara Escarpment Plan will represent a milestone in Provincial planning for significant scenic resource areas. ■

Equinox Adventures Captures the Sun

For those who maintain that the spirit of adventure is dead and that life has been reduced to a compendium of the tedious and the trivial — *Equinox Adventures* has a sure-fire cure.

This innovative Beamsville-based company offers professionally designed outdoor adventure courses covering three major disciplines: skiing, whitewater and rock climbing. Paul Sevcik and Jim McLean, co-owners and principal instructors of *Equinox Adventures*, are justifiably proud of their small but substantial company that provides expert instruction in 'high adventure' recreational pursuits with an emphasis on safety.

Both Sevcik and McLean hold a formidable number of national certifications from Canada, the United States and Britain which qualify them as instructors of white-water rafting, rock climbing, kayaking and canoeing, wilderness first aid and safety, and backcountry navigation. And they are actively involved with organizations related to their business such as: Ontario Wild Water Affiliation, British Canoe Union, American Canoe Association, Ontario Rock Climbing Association, Mountain Leader Training Board, Red Cross, Canadian Ski Alliance, and the Canadian Association of Nordic Ski Instructors.

These impressive qualifications give *Equinox Adventures* a definite edge on the competition. And Paul Sevcik maintains that the public has a right to know who is instructing outdoor recreation courses and the level of competence of those instructors.

"Not everyone who teaches a 'high adventure' course is sufficiently qualified to do so," Sevcik said. "We are proud of our qualifications and consequently our names, photographs and certifications are prominently displayed in our brochure."

Both Sevcik and McLean are graduates of Seneca College's Outdoor Recreation Program where they not only honed their considerable outdoor skills to a fine edge, but also learned the basics of setting up a recreational business. After graduation, they worked for several years as professional recreationalists in various aspects of 'high adventure' pursuits within the province. Their diverse apprenticeships have earned them the respect of professional outfitters and governing bodies of outdoor recreation alike.

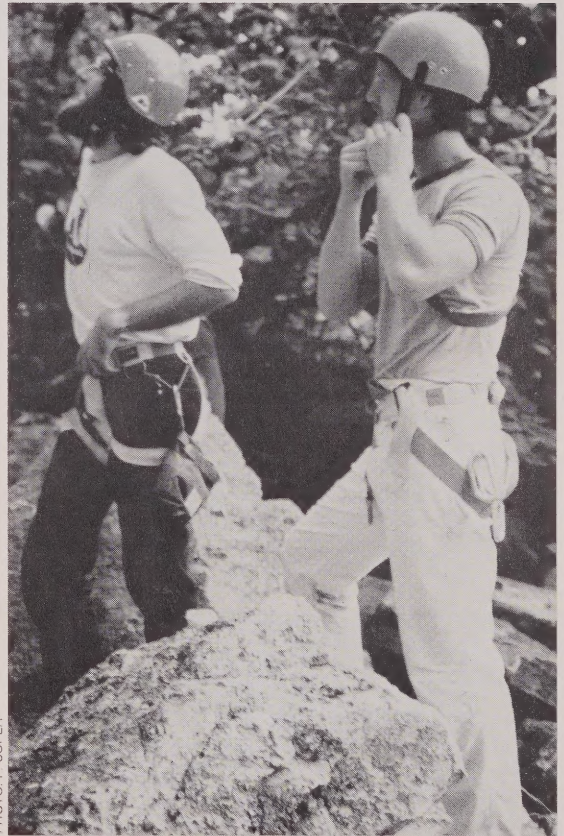


PHOTO: P. SOPER

Partners in *Equinox Adventures*, Paul Sevcik and Jim McLean, prepare to tackle Escarpment cliff.

The idea of setting up their own business started to germinate in 1978 when they were still in college; however, *Equinox Adventures* was not to come to fruition until 1982. Called *Equinox* because most of the courses are offered between May and October when the sun is in the northern hemisphere, the company enjoyed its first operational season in 1983. Since then approximately 2,000 clients have enrolled in *Equinox* courses and indicators point to an even more successful season in 1984.



Whitewater rafting on the turbulent Ottawa River tops a summer season of high adventure recreation.

Jim McLean believes that the popularity of *Equinox* is partially due to current trends: "People have more recreational time available to them and there is a general emphasis on fitness which attracts many to 'high adventure' activities."

However, *Equinox* courses also attract clients because of the professional attention given to maintaining high standards and a low instructor/pupil ratio. Courses generally begin in May with several levels of rock climbing being taught on the Niagara Escarpment at Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area in the Region of Halton. Each course is limited to a maximum enrolment of ten to ensure adequate levels of instructional time. The beginner's course comprises two evening and four weekend sessions which emphasize safety, climbing sequences and style, knots, methods of descending, plus the care, selection and use of equipment. Intermediate courses teach more sophisticated techniques and feature instruction in 'lead' climbing. Advanced students are invited to try their hand at the multipitch climbs of Lake Placid or the Shawangunks of New York State. But for teaching basic technique, *Equinox Adventures* offers the challenge of the Escarpment.

"A cliff face like Rattlesnake Point or Buffalo Crag can teach a student all the required climbing skills," affirmed Sevcik. "If they can climb the Escarpment effectively, then they are ready to climb anywhere in the world."

And Paul Sevcik is in a unique position to judge, having travelled extensively throughout Europe climbing some of the toughest mountains Britain and France have to offer.

During Escarpment climbs safety is emphasized and the 'gung-ho' cavalier approach is quietly and

effectively dissuaded. Both instructors feel that climbing in Ontario has attained a high level of safety standardization, and they intend to see it maintained. Both stress that: "Ontario has as good a system of technical standards as can be found anywhere; and that includes Britain where some of the most difficult technical rock climbing can be found."

Climbing has become so popular that *Equinox* is considering offering week-long courses in the 1984 season to fulfil the substantial demand for 'high level' Escarpment adventure.

Another Escarpment-related course offered by *Equinox* is backcountry navigation which is an essential component of the ski guide's course. This course is effectively taught in several Escarpment conservation areas and is considered invaluable for the outdoor enthusiast — the hiker, canoe or cross-country skier — indeed anyone who needs to find his way through dense bush using topographical maps and a compass.

Equinox Adventures contends that to be even relatively at ease in the wilderness, it is necessary to know where you are. And the backcountry navigation course teaches precisely that. Combining the use of topographical maps and compass bearings, students are taught to triangulate — finding an exact location from three known references. Triangulation, combined with celestial navigation, assures the *Equinox* graduate that he will know where he is — day or night.

Equinox Adventures also provides canoe and kayak instructions with Ontario Wild Water Affiliation Certification available at all levels. Introductory kayak courses are available on Saturday and Sunday in May and five-day instructional clinics in kayaking and open canoeing are available from June 20 through Labour Day.

(Continued on page 47)

Dwarf Trees Corner Market

Fifteen years ago, Tom Chudleigh was scrambling to find buyers for the apples he was producing on his Escarpment farm. Today, he runs one of the most successful *pick-your-own* operations in the province, often playing host to as many as 8,000 visitors in a single day.

Once rejected by wholesalers because they were too big to pack neatly into the three and five-pound poly bags used for supermarkets, Chudleigh's apples are now sought by apple fanciers throughout southern Ontario and sometimes beyond. His dwarf trees, nearly responsible for his downfall because they bear larger fruit than standard trees, are perfect for the *pick-your-own* market because the apples are readily accessible to a customer standing at ground level.

But Chudleigh and his wife, Carol, haven't stopped at merely selling apples to an eager public. The success of their enterprise hinges on their determination to make a visit to their farm fun and visitors are never discouraged from sampling the apples which are the mainstay of the operation.

"It's simply good business," Chudleigh says. "If people come out to an apple farm and actually taste an apple, then it's going to be a memorable experience and they're going to want to come back."

Before being transported out to the 30 hectares of orchards on a tractor-drawn trailer, every customer is shown the proper method of picking apples off the trees. Once in the orchard, farm staff remain on hand to offer help and advice if it's needed.

Since 1967, when they were left little choice but to start a *pick-your-own* operation, the Chudleighs have expanded steadily. In addition to the apple orchard, they operate two restaurants: one serving light snacks while the other serves up more substantial fare including bacon and egg pie (*listed as 'quiche' until the name had to be changed because 'real men' refused to touch it*); a bakeshop featuring goods baked right on the premises; a hay mow aimed at keeping kids amused on rope swings, ladders, and slides; a produce market; and the *Apple 'n Cider Shoppe* which specializes in crafts, natural foods, cheeses, and, of course, fresh and frozen apple cider.

Carol Chudleigh looks after the shops, most of them located in the farm's picturesque old barn, which have become so popular that sales now rival those from the orchards themselves.

With a nucleus of nine full-time staff which expands to more than 200 during the busy summer and early fall seasons, the farm is still very much a family operation. The Chudleighs' three teenaged sons help out wherever they're needed; and Chudleigh himself, who supervises the orchards, is just as likely to pop up anywhere to lend a hand with anything from figuring out what's wrong with a recalcitrant coffeemaker in the kitchen to helping a customer tote a heavy bag of apples to her car.

Tom Chudleigh has lived on the Milton farm since 1955 when his family moved from Mississauga after their farm was bought by the giant Shipp Corporation. The suburban development which grew up on the family's old farm was named Applewood Heights in memory of the apple orchards which had been plowed under to make way for housing.

On the Mississauga farm, Chudleigh's father, Eric, pioneered the development of dwarf apple trees in Canada, bringing eight dwarf McIntosh trees from England just a month after his son, Tom, was born. Before choosing a site for his new farm, where he intended to continue cultivating dwarf apple trees as part of his mixed farming operation, Eric Chudleigh looked around carefully and considered several locations before settling on the Milton location.



(Continued on page 9)

A Tremendous Achievement

Rattlesnake Cliff Challenges Climbers

The rays of the autumn sun strike the cliff directly, denying the lateness of the season and causing the climber's eyes to squint as he searches for imperceptible routes up the limestone precipice. In the absence of bustling summer crowds, concentration comes easily. Today, but for the presence of a few dedicated climbing groups, Rattlesnake Point is almost deserted.

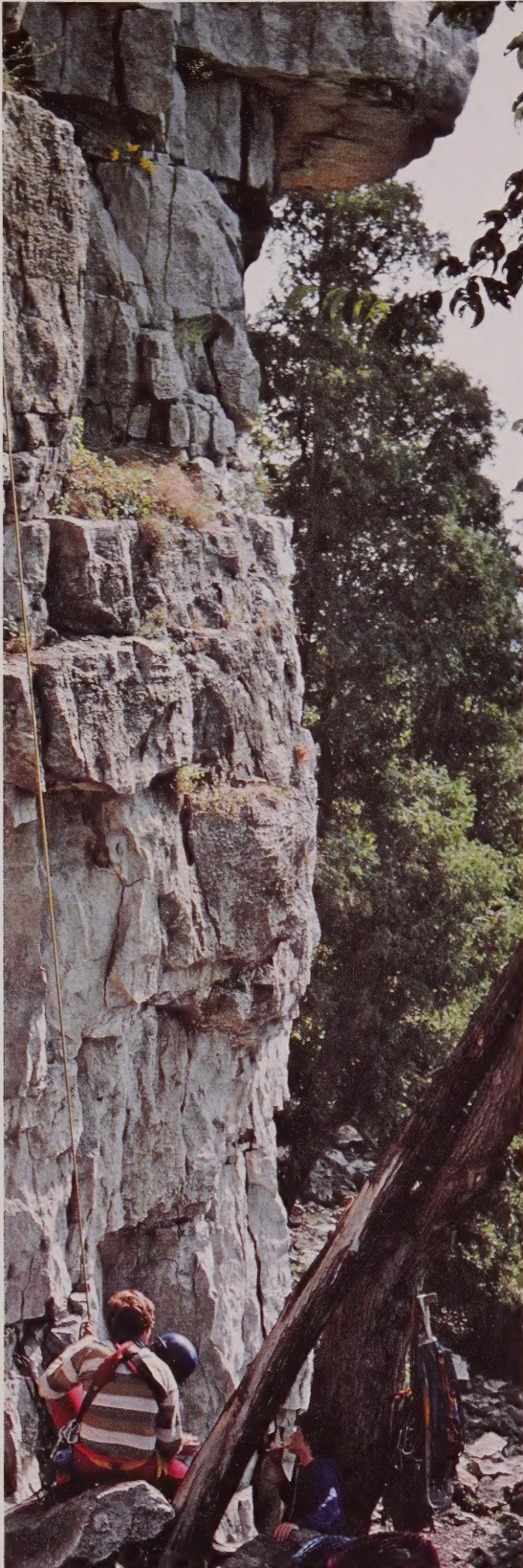
A route decision reached, the 'lead' climber approaches a 5.5 climb known as *Final Finale*. Upward momentum flows effortlessly as hands, feet and mind unite with singular purpose. The chalk bag hanging from David Moore's harness swings rhythmically as the climb progresses. His second, Brian Hibbert, belays expertly from the base of the Escarpment as Moore reaches the five-metre level where he inserts the first *chockstone* — a form of climbing protection wedged into the rock face. Until the placement of the first *chock*, a slip could have resulted in a free-form fall running the full distance of the kernmantel rope between Hibbert and Moore. Now the climber is protected by the first of several *chocks* which will be inserted in the cliff face during the climb.

The eyes of the Humber College students watch the colourful silhouette of their instructor as the climb continues. Moore displays economy of effort, balance and rhythm. To the observer it is a graceful '*pas de deux*': the climber and the cliff with clinking carabiners providing musical accompaniment.

Reaching the summit, Moore ties off and anchors himself securely while fixing a top belay for his second, Hibbert, who follows removing the *chocks* as he climbs. The pitch is now secured for the students and the Escarpment face has been returned to an unnumbered state.

Moore and Hibbert are members of the *Ontario Rock Climbing Association*, an organization dedicated to the maintenance of rock-climbing safety and the protection of the rock-climbing environment. Both instructors are amply qualified as educators within the Ontario school system and expert climbers who share their knowledge during extra-curricular courses at Humber and Seneca Colleges.

Today's group consists of extension students from Humber College's adult education class. Although they are diverse in age, interest and background, all are united in a common goal: to test their climbing prowess on the 450-million-year-old Escarpment face.



PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE: P. SOPER

Hesitantly, the first group begins. They display less grace and confidence than their instructors, but exhibit admirable determination. Now the basic climbing techniques and safety procedures imparted in Humber College's gymnasium, must be put into practice.

Moore and Hibbert have prepared several pitches ranging in difficulty but commensurate with the students' abilities. However, to ensure that safety procedures are followed and instruction given when necessary, Moore and Hibbert circulate among the climbing groups. A missing helmet is cause for a good-natured chiding and a fine — buying a round of lager at the climbers' favourite watering-hole, *The Dickens* after the day's climb.

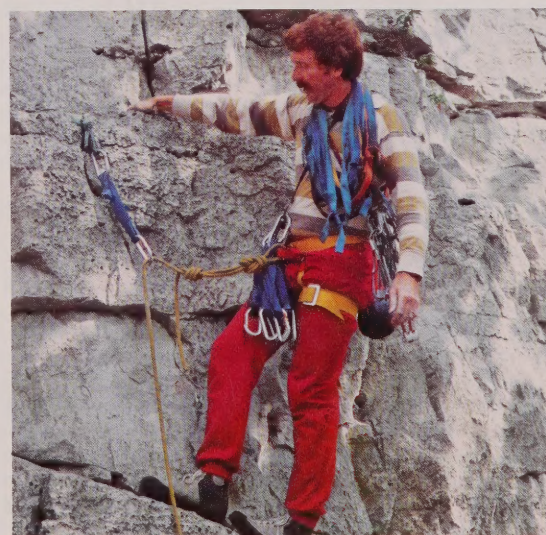
Some of the more adept are taken aside by Hibbert and introduced to a climbing technique known as chimneying: an adaptation of counterforce which enables a climber to negotiate a large fissure with caterpillar-like movements. Throughout the session various techniques are practised such as: rappelling, manteling, bridging, traversing, three-point suspension, and balance.

Throughout the climb, climber and belayer maintain constant voice contact with the belayer often encouraging a climber during a difficult move. When a climber reaches a point where he can no longer continue — an impasse where rock has beaten nerve and muscle — the belayer is often the first to recommend that the climber come down and take a break. In climbing circles there is no dishonour in retreat for the challenge is ultimately personal, the limitations inherent, and the competition the cliff. As David Moore explains, "Each climber will experience a difficult climb at one time or another and it is important not to become psychologically beaten by a climb."

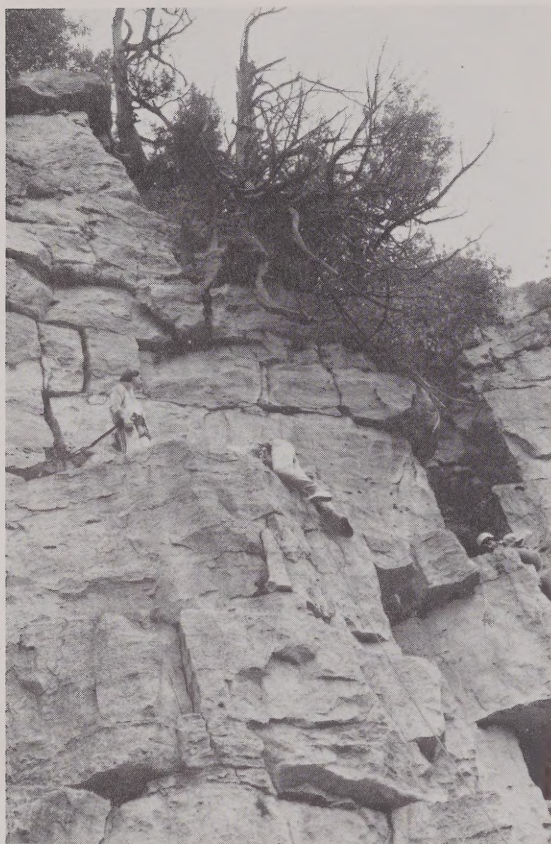
In Moore's opinion Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area in the Region of Halton provides the best rock face in southern Ontario for instructional and recreational climbing. There are no fewer than 40 recognized pitches at Rattlesnake Point, all of which are logged in the climbers' handbook, *Climbing in Southern Ontario* which was prepared by the Toronto section of the *Alpine Club of Canada*. Four of the recognized pitches are rated at 5.11 — an outstanding accomplishment for a rock of this size.

This grading system is based on the *Yosemite Decimal System* established twenty years ago by the Sierra Club of the United States. At that time, 5.9 was considered the human limit for rock climbing. Currently, climbers are easily accomplishing climbs of 5.11 at Rattlesnake Point and other Escarpment climbing areas.

To reach the Escarpment base at Rattlesnake Point, climbers follow a cedarchip trail from the parking lot to the cliff. Most groups pack in all their equipment and observe a climbers' code established by the *Alpine Club of Canada*: leave things as far as possible the way you find them, pack out any garbage, and keep the use of pitons and bolts to a minimum. In addition, the *Halton Region Conservation Authority* in consultation with the *Alpine Club of Canada* and the *Ontario Rock Climbing Association* has designated certain areas as appropriate for organized and recreational rock climbing and deleted certain areas where there is an environmental concern.



Dave Moore shows how it's done — effortlessly.



Brian Hibbert ties off and offers expert advice to ascending climbers.

It is obvious that among the climbers there is a highly developed sense of camaraderie due perhaps to their reliance on each other and a well-established trust system. Brian Hibbert cites a recurring theme when he notes: "Time and time again as a climber you are forced to trust: in your own ability and in your climbing partner."

That trust extends beyond the pitch to sharing a cold-water stream which trickles from the base of the Escarpment as a communal cooler. Luncheon kits and equipment are left unattended with the conviction that fellow climbers would never resort to dastardly behaviour. And it may be noted that luncheon menus at Rattlesnake tend to be sybaritic — no fewer than four cans of oysters were counted cooling their heels in the stream.

During lunch break, David Moore reviewed some of the climbing equipment and gallantly attempted to demystify climbing paraphernalia. Standing bedecked in sit-harness, slings, carabiners, chockstones, and kernmantel rope slung over a bright gold and plum jogging suit, he resembled a medieval court jester. The equipment he carried, however, was the very latest.

On his feet were high-friction, soft-soled rock shoes designed to provide maximum contact with the rock surface. These shoes conform to even minute irregularities on the rock. Over his shoulder on a harness rack were various forms of climbing protection or *pro* as they are called by the initiated. This hardware comes in a mind-boggling array from chockstones to carabiners.

Chockstones, also known as *chocks* or *nuts*, are pieces of metal of various shapes and sizes generally attached to loops of rope, nylon webbing or wire. Chocks have largely replaced pitons and bolts as a principal form of protection and have the added advantage of being removable which minimizes damage to a rock face. Pitons, however, are still placed occasionally as *fixed pins* on popular routes. A more sophisticated chock is called a *friend*. This spring activated, wheel-like device can adapt to areas where it would be difficult or impossible to place regular chocks. Carabiners are oval loops of metal much like chain links which snap open and closed. They are used to clip the loop end of the chock onto the climbing rope, thus securing the climber to the *pro*.

The sit-harness, generally made of nylon webbing, looks somewhat like a jolly-jumper and secures the climber on the climbing rope.

David Moore recommends that beginning climbers invest in high-quality, multi-use equipment and steer clear of gadgets. Armed with reliable equipment and displaying a positive *mind-set*, climbers are prepared to tackle pitches like Rattlesnake. But a good course in rock climbing basics is absolutely necessary before venturing onto a cliff face.

Brian Hibbert attests that: "Rock climbing, if properly taught, and supervised, is not a high-risk sport as many believe and an expert climber, who is also a competent, safety-oriented instructor, can successfully initiate a highly beneficial course."

Basic climbing procedures and safety are constantly stressed during the Humber College groups' initial climbing experience. The students follow all the instructions and relish the moment of victory when they reach the top: arms involuntarily flying up in a salute to their achievement.

The popular book on mountaineering, *The Freedom of the Hills* maintains that: "Rock climbing requires a strong commitment of mind and body. Making the right moves requires total concentration and complete confidence in capabilities."

These climbers have made the commitment and reaped the rewards.

Cuesta lists the following guide to Escarpment rock climbing based on research conducted by members of the *Alpine Club of Canada* and the *Ontario Rock Climbing Association*:

Sunset Rock: Located off Twiss Road in the Region of Halton, this five-metre high bouldering cliff consists of clean, compact and reliable limestone. Currently, there are 60 climbing routes which can be climbed without excessive equipment. This rock face is generally used by beginning climbers learning rope work or as a conditioning exercise for more experienced climbers.

Rattlesnake Point: Located approximately 64-kilometres west of Toronto, these ten to thirty-metre high dolomite cliffs provide a wide variety of climbing grades. These cliffs are probably the most intensively used in Ontario due to their accessibility, popularity and high quality. Most of the routes are well protected by resident pitons and virtually all climbs can be top roped. Climbs which begin at the west end of the highest section of

Rattlesnake Cliffs and continue to the east cliff are indicated by red or yellow numbers on the base of the Escarpment.

Various routes have been named by the intrepid climbing enthusiasts who first completed them. And labels like *Creepy Crawly*, *Space Case*, *Super Solenoid*, *Bloody Mess*, *After You*, and *Simian Swing* serve to ward off the faint of heart.

Space Case, also known as *The Way We Were*, was Rattlesnake's first 5.11 representing a tremendous achievement and challenge — definitely not recommended for those suffering acrophobia!

Buffalo Crag: This 300-metre long Escarpment face also within *Rattlesnake Point Conservation Area* is comparable in height and potential to Rattlesnake Point. Containing all the desirable qualities of a good climbing crag with routes ranging in difficulty, this new climbing area overlooking the buffalo compound is becoming very popular. The Halton Region Conservation Authority recommends that this cliff be used for recreational rather than instructional purposes and that access be from the conservation area only.

As this is a new cliff, there is a fair amount of unstable rock on the face. Routes should be carefully checked prior to a climb. Come and try your hand (hands) at *Flying Squirrel*, *Boa Constrictor*, *Mickey Mouse* and *Shaky Flaky*.

Mount Nemo: Easily visible to the south of Rattlesnake Point, this Escarpment outlier has some of the highest rock in the Halton area. While there are 100 listed and suggested routes much of the rock remains virtually unclimbed. Due to its easterly location, the cliff face receives poor sun exposure and remains cool year round.

Also route names such as *Now What*, *Chalky's Folly*, *Devil's Staircase*, and *Butterfingers* attest to some of the climbing difficulties.

Kelso Cliffs: One of the original climbing areas, Kelso Cliffs are located within Halton Region's *Kelso Conservation Area*. Recommended access is from the park gate to the Glen Eden Ski Hill lot. A short walk through the culvert under the railway tracks and past the chalet brings you to the cliff face.

The first established route starts at the corner of the cliff and numbers run east. If no name or grade is indicated beside the number, the climb has not been completed. Caution should be exercised and climbing in the quarry is strictly prohibited by the Conservation Authority. Completed climbs have been tagged: *Jolly Roger*, *Drag Line Traverse*, and *Walt's Wilt*.

Kimberley Crag: Located 182 metres above the village of Kimberley in *Old Baldy Conservation Area*, Kimberley Crag is fast becoming known as a climbing gem among sport enthusiasts.

Access is from the Bruce Trail and a conservation parking lot to the west of the cliff. The view over the beautiful Beaver Valley is breathtaking and climbs such as *Troglodyte's Delight*, and *Romeo's Revenge* will leave you breathless.

For further information on rock climbing contact:

Alpine Club of Canada
98 Miller Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6H 1J0

(Continued from page 5)



Decisions, decisions!

"We had a great luxury in being able to choose our farm. My father had four basic criteria: he looked for a paved highway, a year-round creek, frost protection, and deep, rich soil," Chudleigh said.

The property on Highway 25 just north of the 401 was chosen because it met all four criteria. Frost protection, crucial to the nurturing of the dwarf trees, is provided by the Niagara Escarpment which looms over the western boundary of the farm.

By the time Chudleigh graduated from the Ontario Agricultural College (now Guelph University) with his B.S.A. (Bachelor of Science in Agriculture), he had decided literally to put all his apples in one basket by turning exclusively to apple production. "The decision was a reasonable gamble," Chudleigh said. "We haven't had a setback since we planted them."

Chudleigh's next project is the cultivation of a *Heritage Orchard* which was planted in 1983. This .8 hectare area will be an experiment in growing apple species which were popular years ago. He isn't certain whether apples such as *Tolman Sweets*, *Cox's Orange Pippin*, and *Gravensteins* will flourish here and, if they do, whether they'll taste the same as those grown on trees in England and Europe. He'll have to wait until 1985 to find the answer — that's when the first apples will be harvested from 'the museum' as he's dubbed it.

Chudleigh's Apple Farm is open year-round with cross-country skiing during the winter when, naturally, hot apple cider is ready at the end of the trail. In spring, maple syrup is the big draw with syrup-making demonstrations scheduled in addition to syrup sales.

Chudleigh's Apple Farm

Located on Highway 25, 3 kilometres north of Highway 401.

Operated by:
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Nineteenth-Century Springs, Spas and Cures

The Greek physician Hippocrates advocated them; the ancient Pharaohs incorporated them into religious ceremonies; the Romans couldn't have lived without them; and the medieval knight would rather have slain a dragon than taken one.

The bath, or more precisely the therapeutic bath, has been around since the advent of civilization with a few odoriferous exceptions. Such long-standing popularity made it only natural that certain areas, reputed to have curative properties in their local water, would become meccas of therapeutic bathing. Known as spas, these specialty resorts experienced an unprecedented boom during the Victorian era.

Believing that mineral-spring water, in a variety of applications, could cure whatever ailed them, the Victorians flocked to European spas from Dux in France to Bath in England. And in the latter half of the nineteenth century, discovered the small agricultural town of *St. Catharines* in Ontario and the medicinal properties of its mineral springs.

Located within the shadow of the Niagara Escarpment, *St. Catharines* sits on top of a flow of fresh groundwater which filters through Escarpment rock and settles in mineral pockets and rock cavities deep within the earth. The aggressive promotion of these pools of mineral water was to catapult *St. Catharines*, ready or not, into the 'spa era'.

The springs which ushered in this new age, had been discovered centuries earlier by Algonquin Indians who dubbed them 'magic waters'. By 1793, Lieutenant-Governor John Graves Simcoe, concerned about the high price of salt in Upper Canada, found a commercial use for the mineral springs and began a small-scale, salt-extracting operation at Louth.

But it really took the ingenuity of William Hamilton Merritt to turn a small-scale operation into a large-scale profit. (see Cuesta 1983, *Welland Canals*).

Intrigued by the presence of brackish spring water on his property on the *Twelve Mile Creek*, Merritt reduced it to a solid residue. The greyish substance was sent for analysis which subsequently confirmed that the sample was *sodium chloride* — salt. And salt was an indispensable pioneer commodity.

Not a man to miss an opportunity, Merritt immediately dug a 24-metre well and began operating a Salt Works in 1815. By 1820, the salt business was booming and

Merritt was joined in the venture by a young chemist, Dr. William Chace.

In addition to the monetary benefits of salt production, Chace was fascinated by the medicinal properties of mineral water. Once established in *St. Catharines*, he would have ample opportunity to test the probable relationship between good health and salt water.

Merritt, a shrewd businessman, didn't keep his eggs in one basket; he believed in commercial diversification. In order to efficiently utilize his abundant water supply, he operated a distillery near his Salt Works. And lest the corn mash used in the distillation of spirits went to waste, hogs were kept nearby to be fattened on left-over grain.

It was the hogs that first alerted Chace to the peripheral benefits of Merritt's water.

When the hogs were slaughtered for market, Chace observed that their livers were unusually healthy. He concluded that mineral water was the primary reason for such unblemished innards.

Eventually, Chace became sole owner of the Salt Works — Merritt went off to build the Welland Canal — and he began to speculate on the possible medicinal uses of his mineral water.

In June 1826, the *St. Catharines Farmers' Journal* noted that Chace "*amongst other things had fitted up a bathing establishment, where hot or cold salt water baths could be obtained, which it was believed would eventually become a public resort as famous as the spas of Europe.*" However, this venture did not rocket Chace to immediate stardom.

By 1840, the idea of salt-water bathing was barely starting to catch on. In June 1841, Chace's manager Charles Hellems advertised in the *St. Catharines Journal* the opening of a "*commodious Bathing Establishment*".

"Salt Water baths at St. Catharines: BATHS at any temperature, at Salt Water Baths, adjoining Salt Works. Ladies' Baths separate from those of the Gentlemen's —private sitting room for both (separate) overlook Welland Canal —carriages for invalids can be obtained at the various hotels."

St. Catharines was on the brink of becoming a 'spa town'.

In May 1846, Chace advertised his salt water baths "*simply to answer medical purposes*" and included the following testimonial:

"He (the proprietor) has been directly or indirectly engaged in the manufacture of salt and chloride of calcium upwards of twenty-five years, and during that time, even in the most sickly seasons, he had never had a man taken sick at the works. Frequently hired men that were scarcely able to walk, would, in a few days by drinking small quantities of water, and bathing in it, or getting accidentally wet, be perfectly restored to strength and health."

The same day Chace advertised his baths, the *Journal* carried an accompanying article urging residents of the Niagara Peninsula to make use of their local water.

"The people of this neighbourhood have no occasion for a pilgrimage to the Atlantic to obtain the advantage of salt water, but can stay at home and enjoy it, minus the weeds, the slime, and the swell of the ocean, besides having the water at any temperature. Those who don't want to be sick may possibly attain that end by occasional visits to the St. Catharines Salt Water Baths."

Chace systematically began cataloguing the effects of salt water: the water was observed to be a powerful diuretic; it seemed to act as a tonic on the system; and the body eliminated it — three-fifths leaving the body as perspiration while the remaining two-fifths was discharged in the urine. Chace deduced that since all known diseases produced a high-coloured urine, this 'medicinal water' purged the body of its impurities. Ergo, the water had healing properties and was a marketable commodity. He began bottling the product in 1847 using water obtained from a 150-metre artesian well.

Chace enthusiastically reported in the *St. Catharines Journal* that the mineral water had "beneficial effects upon persons afflicted with some of the inveterate diseases of the stomach, liver and skin. (And that) he has no hesitation in offering it to the public, in the full conviction, that it will prove a boon to suffering humanity."

In 1848, Chace suffered a setback when his Salt Works were completely destroyed by fire. Undaunted, he continued his bottling operation and dedicated himself to the service of suffering humanity.

The arrival of Colonel Eleazer Williams Stephenson to the mineral-springs business preceded a whole new chapter in the 'spa saga'.

Stephenson, a native of Springfield, Massachusetts, immigrated to St. Catharines in 1826, and opened a livery stable. By 1828, his stagecoach company carrying mail and passengers between Niagara and Hamilton was proving a sound business venture. However, the advent of the railroad in the early 1850's soon rendered stagecoaches obsolete. The Colonel, a title carried over from his stagecoach days, turned to the hotel business to make his fortune.

Stephenson bought the ruined Salt Works from Chace around 1852 and provided the impetus for the commercialization of the springs. Under his flamboyant leadership, the *St. Catharines Mineral Springs* were to leap to fame and achieve an international reputation.

But first Stephenson had to prove that the springs were special.

In order to do that, Stephenson sent a sample to a chemistry professor at the *University of Toronto* in

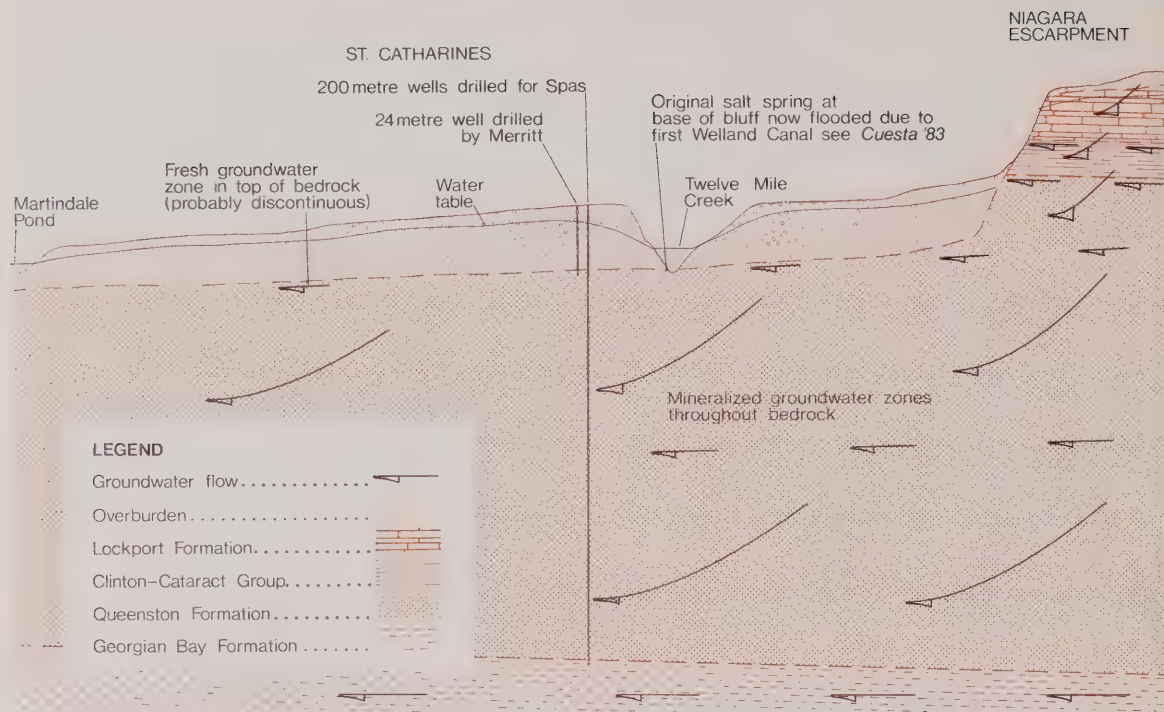


PHOTO: COURTESY ST. CATHARINES HISTORICAL MUSEUM N4170

Map of St. Catharines, 1870, locates Springbank, Stephenson House and Welland House Hotel.

ST. CATHARINES SPRINGS

HYDROLOGICAL SOURCE: T.J. YAKUTCHIK
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



1853. Professor Croft reported that the water sample contained chlorides, iodides and bromides of calcium and magnesium, and sulfates. Croft ascertained that there was a similarity *"approaching to the identity of composition with some of the most important and fashionable German spas, those of Kreuznach, the muriated Saline waters of Weisbaden and Küssengen, and the waters of Salin, and the Jura of France."*

Armed with this evidence, Stephenson began building his dream. Initially, he operated St. Catharines House, then in 1853 the foundations for a bath house and larger hotel, Stephenson House, were laid on Yates Street near Salina Street.

That same year, an astute group of businessmen, anticipating a boom in mineral-springs spas, bought three parcels of adjoining land at the corner of King and Ontario Streets. Most of the joint owners were successful businessmen, and included William Hamilton Merritt and his son. The consortium in turn leased a newly built hotel, known as Welland House, to John B. Damon.

In 1854, the *St. Catharines Journal*, obviously caught up in mineral-water hoopla, blithely proclaimed:

"We congratulate our fellow citizens on the healthy state of our town. Perhaps in no place on this continent is there less disease than in St. Catharines. We think that now we have baths open to the public, of the very best description, nothing is wanted but ordinary attention to food and personal cleanliness to make our town still more remarkable for its healthful character."

By 1855, when Welland House and Stephenson House were in full-scale operation, St. Catharines became a bona fide resort town.

Stephenson House was a large, elegant, three-storey structure with an abundant supply of spring water. It opened with a gala party and during its first season, from June to October, was crowded.

The Colonel, an ambitious entrepreneur, fully realized the importance of good advertising. His advertisements read like a list of Job's afflictions:

"The extraordinary medicinal qualities of the water from this well, have proved to be more powerful than any mineral water yet discovered for the speedy and effectual cure of: Dyspepsia, Liver and Kidney Complaint, want of action in the Digestive and Urinary Organs, Disordered Stomach, Loss of Appetite, Lassitude, General Debility, worms in Children, Sea Sickness, Fever and Ague, and Chronic Diseases. It is also applied with unerring efficacy in the cure of Chronic Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Numbness, Palsy, Weak Joints, Eruptions of the Skin."

Publicity and advertising were hallmarks of Stephenson's success. He actively promoted his hotel in the southern United States. During the winter, he travelled south and spread the gospel. As a result, many rich southern families spent their summers and their money in St. Catharines.

During June, July and August, the streets of St. Catharines were transformed by this influx: the planter wearing his wide sombrero; the city slicker with his inevitable slouched hat; and the ladies in wide skirts and parasols, usually attended by their servants.

The Welland House, with four storeys, was the largest building in St. Catharines. It accommodated 400 people in its high, airy and spacious rooms. It had, like Stephenson House, all the 'modern fixins',

improvements, and latest inventions necessary for a large hotel. And it apparently enjoyed first-class status from its opening, despite three ownership changes.

Welland House reigned as the premier summer resort “catering to the wealthy in search of a cure for what ailed them: Brittle-bearded colonels from the Southern Union used to sip their drinks on its broad verandahs, stretched out on cane chairs under vine-covered porches, smiling and chatting in the shade...”

By 1856, talk of the baths and the two first-class hotels dominated summer gossip in *St. Catharines* and while miraculous cures were rumoured, none were ever proven. The waters, however, did have one undeniable and spectacular effect — they were a superb laxative.

Dr. Peter Peach, a geologist at *Brock University* in *St. Catharines* contends that the popularity of these spas was an inevitable accompaniment to the excesses of the Victorian era. “People who were even reasonably affluent ate far too much and as a result had a problem with constipation. The main reason they went to the spas was to clean out their bowels by drinking the waters,” says Peach.

According to Peach, *St. Catharines’* water contains, among other minerals, sodium sulfate and magnesium sulfate, more commonly known as *epsom salts*. Sodium sulfate works as a laxative; magnesium sulfate is a great muscle relaxant beneficial to sufferers of self-inflicted diseases brought about by sheer gluttony.

As twelve-course meals became the norm in affluent homes, the engorged and bloated populace frantically began searching for a cure. And the registration at *St. Catharines’* spas grew by leaps and bounds.

Between 1856 and 1869, *Stephenson House* underwent seven major renovations to accommodate this ever-increasing number of guests — even adding a billiard room and bowling alley to entertain recuperating guests.

Unfortunately, such popularity and prosperity were accompanied by a succession of disasters. The *Welland House* suffered two major fires in 1863 and 1864, in which the hotel was completely gutted and had to be rebuilt. Between 1856 and 1893, the hotel changed hands eight times. Similarly, between 1867 and 1898, *Stephenson House* changed owners eight times and in 1871, experienced a fire that destroyed some of the outer buildings.

Disasters notwithstanding, the resorts’ popularity continued unabated and *Stephenson House* was known to have registered over 2,000 guests between April and October of 1859.

But, the mineral springs of *St. Catharines* were unknowingly about to undergo yet another onslaught.

Enter Dr. Theophilus Mack who began bottling and selling ‘saline’ water in 1856 — a liquid described as tasting intensely salty and possessing a marine odour. This description was exceptionally charitable as the water contained sulfur, giving it an odour that can only be described as resembling rotten eggs.

When not bottling water, Mack devoted his energies to the treatment of invalids. He used mineral water both as a tonic and as a bath. His medical skills were lauded by a correspondent for the *New York Pilot* in 1859, who penned that “hundreds of invalids received new life...through the excellent care of Dr. T. Mack, who is one of the best physicians in the world.”

Encouraged by such praise, Mack expanded his medical services and in 1864, opened a sanitorium. He hired builder James Dougan to erect a large bath house



Dr. Theophilus Mack

PHOTO COURTESY ST. CATHARINES HISTORICAL MUSEUM N4161

and hotel near an artesian well on Ontario Street. The third and final *St. Catharines* spa, *Springbank*, was built that year. *Springbank* was described as a “single, large, solidly built red-brick building, with some ornate Victorian features, but also with Victorian spaciousness in both its interior and surrounding grounds. It was constructed with three and four storey main front sections with a long wing running back to the east.”

Although this large sanatorium initially catered to invalids and employed a trained staff of male and female nurses to aid in patients’ treatment, gradually, *Springbank* attracted healthy patrons, often friends or acquaintances of the patients.

At its zenith, *Springbank* was a fashionable, self-contained resort which catered exclusively to the wealthy. In addition to the therapeutic mineral baths, the resort featured excellent dining facilities, acres of gardens and walks, and a ballroom.

Mack was both *Springbank’s* proprietor and resident physician. Although he was renowned as a specialist ‘in the cure of diseases of women’, he treated a myriad of complaints with his favourite panacea — the mineral bath.

Baths at *Springbank* were generally taken hot and, if that didn’t work, Mack would employ other procedures such as applying water, steam, and electricity to the patient in order to restore good health. His steaming Turkish baths became a well-known speciality.

Popularity, prosperity and the presence of prominent individuals became an accepted part of the *St. Catharines’* milieu, thanks largely to the resorts.

John A. Macdonald visited *Stephenson House* in 1860 for dinner and an evening of political debate. The Governor-General of Canada was received outside *Stephenson House* in 1862, while in 1863 the *St. Catharines Journal* announced the arrival of General Tom Thumb of Barnum and Bailey’s Circus and the ‘other little folks’ at *Welland House*.

In July of 1867, the Hon. George Brown, a member of the Legislative Assembly of Canada and editor of ‘*The Globe*’, journeyed to *Springbank* to visit his wife who was taking saline baths under Mack’s supervision.

(Continued on page 42)



PHOTOS COURTESY PARKS CANADA - FORT GEORGE

Battle of Queenston Heights Halts Invasion

On October 13, 1812, the Escarpment heights above the village of Queenston resounded with musket and cannon fire as British and militia forces engaged invading American troops in the struggle for a nation.

Today, overlooking the battlefield, a sixty-four metre stone column dedicated to British North America's most brilliant military commander, Major-General Sir Isaac Brock and his provincial aide-de-camp Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell commemorates the men who fell in defence of the Niagara frontier. That frontier now constitutes part of the world's largest undefended border; however, one hundred and seventy-two years ago the situation *'entre amis'* was radically different. The United States and Great Britain found themselves locked in a confrontation of some thirty-months' duration which nobody wanted, yet nobody could stop.



Major-General Sir Isaac Brock

Britain, embroiled in the Napoleonic Wars, had no desire to fight on two disparate fronts; Canada was unimpressed by a conflict that seemed remote; and America entered the war for various reasons not the least of which was the defence of her honour.

For those reasons, the *War of 1812* is viewed by many historians as a continuation of the *War of Independence* and the adamant refusal of an emerging nation to be bullied by an established power.

By 1807, Britain, engaged in all-out maritime warfare, enacted Orders in Council which imposed a complete blockade against France and sanctioned the seizure of any neutral ships bound for Gallic ports. This, coupled with the practice of purloining American seamen from neutral vessels and impressing them into the Royal Navy, infuriated the United States.

Matters came to a head on June 22, 1807 when the American frigate, *Chesapeake* was intercepted by the British man-of-war, *Leopard* for the sole purpose of removing suspected deserters. Three formerly impressed American nationals were forcibly removed and returned to the British frigate, *Melampus*. One bona fide deserter found on the *Chesapeake*, Jenkin Ratford, was later publicly hanged at Halifax.

America seethed at this flagrant disregard for national sovereignty; War Hawks led by Henry Clay demanded revenge; and John Quincy Adams penned: *"No nation can be Independent which suffers her Citizens to be stolen from her at the discretion of the Naval or military officers of another."*

By 1810, an aggressive War Hawk campaign had convinced the American government that *"the conquest of Canada is in our power"*. And newspapers, such as the hawkish Kentucky Gazette espoused the popular Jeffersonian sentiment that invading Canada was a *"mere matter of marching"*.

While Britain viewed this warlike posturing as pure bluff, one man with more military prescience than most noted: *"It is impossible to view the late hostile measures of the American government towards England without considering a rupture between the two countries as probable to happen."* That man was Major-General Isaac Brock, administrator of Upper Canada and commander of his majesty's forces in Upper Canada.

Isaac Brock was born in Guernsey, England on October 6, 1769, the same year which heralded the birth of Napoleon Bonaparte and Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. A tall and remarkably handsome man, Brock

is portrayed with a fair complexion, clear grey-blue eyes and sparkling white teeth.

Like his famous contemporaries, Brock was a renowned military strategist. And by February 1812, four months before the actual declaration of war, he had formulated an offensive campaign "... unless Detroit and Michilimackinac be both in our possession at the commencement of hostilities not only Amherstburg but most probably the whole country must be evacuated as far as Kingston."

The United States declared war on Great Britain on June 18, 1812. Brock immediately implemented his strategies designed to frustrate invasion while uniting the settlers of Upper Canada, three-fifths of whom were Americans, in the defence of their adopted country.

In less than a month, between July 17 and August 16, Brock had forced the surrender of Michilimackinac, an island in Lake Huron and gateway to the fur trade; and, at Detroit, had accepted General William Hull's surrender in one of the most humiliating defeats of the war.

Within twenty-four hours of capturing Detroit, Brock, determined to press on into New York State, headed back towards the heartland of Upper Canada — Niagara. However, on his arrival at Fort Erie, he learned that an armistice had been declared effective August 20, 1812.

As the British offensive campaign ground to a halt, Brock's disappointment was clearly voiced in a letter to his brother: "My instructions oblige me to adopt defensive measures, and I have evinced greater forbearance than was ever practised on any former occasion ... I firmly believe that at this moment I could sweep everything before me from Fort Niagara to Buffalo ..."

The Americans, in contrast, were profoundly relieved by this turn of events. Major-General Henry Dearborn, while under general orders to assume an offensive position in Niagara was in no position to do so; the majority of America's merchant fleet was blockaded at Ogdensburg; Sackets Harbour was virtually defenseless; and the forces commanded by Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer on the Niagara frontier were lacking even basic supplies and equipment.

To compound these problems, Stephen Van Rensselaer, a leading Federalist politician, was without campaign experience and had been appointed to his command by an act of political expedience on the part of his rival, Governor of New York State, Daniel D. Tompkins. Although Van Rensselaer headed one of the foremost families in New York State and was highly accomplished in his chosen profession, he was, by his own admission, no soldier. In military matters he deferred to his aide and cousin, Lieutenant-Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer, an experienced regular army veteran.

Therefore, when Van Rensselaer decided to obtain further concessions from the British, he dispatched Solomon to Fort George to negotiate the terms of the truce to include the unrestricted navigation of Lake Ontario. There, Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe, Brock's second-in-command, under strict orders from the Governor-General of Canada, Sir George Prevost, to pursue a policy of conciliation conceded without a whimper.

Van Rensselaer immediately took advantage of this windfall by improving and consolidating his position: blockaded vessels were removed; Sackets Harbour was secured; and several thousand additional troops and accompanying supplies were brought to Lewiston.



PHOTO: COURTESY PARKS CANADA FORT GEORGE

Regulars of the 49th prepare to advance.

For the Americans, the armistice was an absolute necessity; however, one event rendered it almost intolerable. The entire American army watched helplessly as ragged, shoeless and wounded American prisoners from the Detroit frontier were marched into Fort George — the effect on morale was predictable.

Peter B. Porter, Quartermaster General of the New York State militia and vociferous War Hawk wrote:

"Three days ago, the heroes of Tippecanoe and the garrisons of Detroit and Mackinac, amounting to about 500, were marched like cattle from Fort Erie to Fort George, guarded by General Brock's regular troops with all the parade and pomp of British insolence, and we were incapacitated by the armistice and our own weakness from giving them the relief they anxiously seemed to expect ..." But John Lovett, aide-de-camp to Stephen Van Rensselaer, while also deeply moved by the spectacle, grasped the wider significance of Hull's surrender: *"Hull's surrender has cemented Canada beyond anything you can conceive. It has also a serious effect on the Indians along the whole frontier. The sensation produced by the sight of the prisoners marched past is inexpressible ..."*

Under such circumstances, the armistice could not last; it ended on September 8, 1812.

Along the fifty-eight kilometre Niagara frontier, invasion was imminent.

Brock, hampered by lack of men and artillery, was under strict orders not to initiate any attack but to remain strictly defensive. *"I should consider it extremely unfortunate,"* Prevost wrote to Brock on September 30, 1812, *"if any temptation or provocation should induce you to abandon those defensive operations suited to the present state of the contest and which it has become both prudent and politic to preserve in observing."*

Brock, impatient for action and anticipating the forthcoming invasion, was effectively shackled.

He abandoned his offensive strategies and prepared for a defensive campaign. Dispatches were sent to Lieutenant-Colonel Henry Proctor at Amherstburg and Lieutenant-Colonel John Vincent at Kingston requesting reinforcements. A system of signal beacons was established from Sugar Loaf and Port Abino, along the lake and river to Lundy's Lane and Queenston, and then inland to Pelham Heights. Secure in these preparations, Brock viewed the opposing army with distaste surmising it to be composed of *"enraged democrats, more ardent and anxious to engage, but they have neither subordination nor discipline"* who *"die very fast . . ."*

By default, the offensive campaign would be initiated by Van Rensselaer.

The American camp had been fermenting with unrest for several weeks. An active War Hawk campaign, led by Porter, branded the commanding general a coward and a traitor for delaying the attack on Queenston. Porter, in turn, was labelled *"a poltroon, coward and scoundrel"*. The arrival, in mid-September of British reinforcements from Kingston and Amherstburg together with 300 Indian allies under the command of John Norton produced near panic within the rank and file. To remedy an awkward situation, Van Rensselaer found himself the unwilling central force in a proposed three-pronged invasion of Canada. William Henry Harrison proposed to invade by way of Detroit; Dearborn would advance on Montreal from Lake Champlain; while Van Rensselaer was urged to cross the river and take possession of Upper Canada before winter set in.

Beefed up by the recent arrival of reinforcements and fired by an effective War Hawk campaign, the militia companies clamoured to *"have at them"*.

Van Rensselaer prudently summoned a council of war to which he invited Brigadier-General Alexander Smyth, commander of the regular troops recently arrived at Buffalo. Smyth, displaying utter contempt for the militia commander, neglected to attend. Van Rensselaer's proposed two-pronged assault — regular troops crossing the river at Newark and storming Fort George, while militia companies crossed from Lewiston and established a foothold on Queenston Heights — was abandoned.

Van Rensselaer substituted a single attack plan on Queenston slated for 3:00 a.m. on the morning of October 11, 1812. What followed was, in any other context, comic relief.

The crossing was planned at the narrowest point in the river at an established ferry crossing. It was estimated that an inexperienced oarsman could pull across the 200-yard distance against currents that averaged four miles per hour in ten minutes.

The troops were assembled to await embarkation on the night of the 11th, in absolutely foul weather. A militia lieutenant by the name of Sims was entrusted to pilot the small flotilla. He set out in the foremost boat and disappeared into the darkness alone — with all the oars for the remaining boats. Sims, who landed on the opposite shore undetected, abandoned the boat and oars and slipped off into the night. His motives were left to muttered speculation as a wet and disgruntled army trudged back to their tents.

The following morning, Brock's brigade major, Thomas Evans, entered the American camp under a flag of truce to negotiate a prisoner exchange for prisoners

taken in the capture of the British schooner, *Caledonia* and the brig, *Detroit* on October 8, 1812. He testily requested to speak to Lieutenant-Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer — the Americans had been steadily peppering Queenston with shot for two days and had gained the enmity of British soldiers. After being advised that Van Rensselaer was ill, Evans spoke with Major John Lovett. Lovett was evasive throughout the conversation and repeatedly insisted that *"nothing can be done until the day after tomorrow"*. Immediately alerted, Evans scanned the camp and noticed more than a dozen boats half-hidden under bushes by the river. This, coupled with an increased concentration of troops and Lovett's restlessness confirmed in Evans' mind that an attack was coming — soon.

Returning post-haste to Queenston, Evans warned the 49th flank companies and militia garrisoned there of an impending attack. To underscore the gravity of the situation, he released prisoners of the 49th regiment from the guardhouse — every able-bodied man would soon be needed to defend the village. He then rushed to Fort George, six miles away, to warn Brock while alerting the various posts along the route.

Based on Evans' reconnaissance, Brock issued orders for all the militia in the vicinity to report in. Then he toiled late into the night preparing dispatches to the commanders and militia officers throughout the Niagara Peninsula.

At three o'clock on the morning of October 13, Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer ordered the attack giving the instructions: *"get across, seize the village and gain the heights"*.

At the time of the attack, it is estimated that Brock had less than 1,000 regular troops supported by 600 militia and a possible reserve of 600 militia and Indians combined defending the border. Queenston's share was two flank companies of the 49th under Captains James Dennis and John Williams, supported by Chisholm's company of the 2nd York militia — 300 men in all. Captain Samuel Hatt's company of the 5th Lincoln was stationed about a mile away at Vrooman's Point, while Cameron's and Heward's companies of York militia were stationed at Brown's Point, three miles distant. The closest regular troops were stationed at Fort George. Brock, expecting an attack on his flank, had purposefully weakened his centre.

In contrast, Van Rensselaer had 2,270 militia and 900 regulars at Lewiston which had been increased by reinforcements from Buffalo and Fort Niagara to approximately 4,000 at the time of the attack.

Van Rensselaer's initial assault force consisted of 600 men scheduled to cross in two waves. But before the first boat was launched dissension within the ranks had militia and army officers skirmishing over the touchy point of seniority. Lieutenant-Colonel Winfield Scott and Lieutenant-Colonel John Chrystie adamantly refused to waive their rank to serve under Lieutenant-Colonel Solomon Van Rensselaer who had been selected to command the advance guard. Finally, a solution was worked out which gave Chrystie a command equal to but separate from Van Rensselaer's. Chrystie would command 300 regular troops during the crossing; Van Rensselaer would be in charge of an equal number of militia.

Logistics settled, the Americans gathered on the shore beneath Lewiston Heights in darkness and drizzle to embark.

The plan called for 14 boats of varying capacity to cross the river under cover of darkness, disembark the landing force and return for reinforcements. The entire force of 4,000 could theoretically be ferried over in less than seven trips.

The boats pushed off under the shadow of two 18-pound cannons at Fort Grey under Lovett's command, two six pounders planted on the riverbank and several field pieces. By 3:15 a.m., ten boats carrying 300 men had reached the landing in Queenston, undetected by British sentries. Most of those who landed were regular troops consisting of a detachment of artillery and three companies of the 13th infantry. In the absence of Chrystie, who had lost an oarlock and was drifting back toward the embarkation point, Van Rensselaer assumed command.

A militia sentry discovered the American landing force and immediately alerted the main guard.

Halfway up the Escarpment heights, the British had built an arrow-shaped emplacement called a redan overlooking the portage road and the river and armed it with an 18-pounder. The British commenced firing on the invading forces; the battle was underway.

In return, the batteries at Fort Grey and the artillery pieces on the Lewiston shore opened up to cover the attack.

Meanwhile, Captain James Dennis with 46 men of the 49th grenadiers advanced to the landing and began a withering and relentless fire. Van Rensselaer no sooner landed than he was struck six times while several officers and men were killed or disabled. Dennis' men were doing an effective job but when the glare of their musket fire revealed their position, all six American cannons trained on them forcing their withdrawal to the village.

At Vrooman's Point, a 24-pound gun mounted "*en barbette*" opened up in support of the redan concentrating its fire on the boats, forcing some of the largest to drift downriver and turn back.

While reinforcements continued to brave the bullet-strafed waters, the ardour of the American militia dampened to the point where some evoked their Constitutional right not to fight on foreign soil and refused to embark.

The second assault wave, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel John Fenwick, proved disastrous. Under heavy fire, Fenwick's boat with two others drifted into a cove below Hamilton House in the village of Queenston where all were slaughtered or taken prisoner.

The initial assault force was now hopelessly pinned down by the water's edge while the redan battery continued its punishing fire. Due to Van Rensselaer's wounds and the absence of more senior officers, command reverted to Captain John E. Wool of the 13th infantry. Above them, the steep and craggy slopes of the Escarpment rose more than 350 feet. Their position was untenable; some bold action had to be attempted and it was evident that the key to victory lay in the capture of the redan.

At Fort George, Brock was wakened by the sound of distant cannon. Initially, he suspected that this was a feint rather than a major assault but the steady cannonade convinced him that something more serious was afoot. Brock hurriedly dressed and gave instructions to

Captain William Holcroft of the Royal Artillery to follow him with two six-pound guns leaving sufficient garrison to repel an attack on Newark should it come. Then, mounting his grey horse Alfred, he thundered out of the fort accompanied by his aides Major J. B. Glegg and Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell. En route, they encountered a subaltern, Samuel Jarvis, of the York Volunteers, galloping to alert the garrison for in the heat of battle the signal fires had been forgotten.

The next event to occur is shrouded in the hazy fabric of hearsay. Although there is no evidence to support it, legend recounts that Brock stopped at the home of Captain John Powell, where he received a cup of coffee from his betrothed, Sophia Shaw. If Brock was engaged, no one knew it.

Meanwhile, the small garrison at Queenston was staunchly repelling the invaders.

By 4:00 a.m., Dennis had regrouped and advanced with 60 men and a three-pound cannon, known as a grasshopper, against the Yankees at the landing. The Americans huddled along the shore as Dennis and his grenadiers kept them pinned down. Meanwhile, a company of 49th light infantry under Captain John Williams together with Chisholm's company of York militia opened up a lethal crossfire from the redan.

It was time for desperate action on the part of the trapped Americans. A narrow fisherman's path winding its way to the cliff's summit was pointed out to Wool by one of his men. Wool approached Van Rensselaer for permission to attempt the capture of the redan. Despite an embarrassing wound in the buttocks, Wool rallied 60 men and officers and set off to claw to the top of the cliff.

Dawn was breaking as Brock galloped into Queenston to be greeted by the cheers of the 49th. On his way to the battlefield, he had instructed the 5th Lincoln and Cameron's and Heward's companies of York militia stationed at Brown's and Vrooman's Points to follow, leaving only enough men to work the batteries. Confident that reinforcements would arrive shortly, Brock spurred Alfred up the Escarpment to the redan. Dismounting he assessed the situation. Observing American troops preparing to embark from Lewiston and aware that an unknown number were already in possession of the landing, Brock ordered Captain Williams, with his regulars and militia to go to the aid of Captain Dennis at the landing. This action left the redan virtually defenceless.

As Brock watched the flight of a cannonball from the gun beside him, he noticed that it burst prematurely. Turning to the gunner, he advised the use of a longer fuse. The words were scarcely out of his mouth when shots rang out overhead. Wool and his men had gained the heights unobserved and unmolested and now threatened the redan position.

Brock, although familiar with Wolfe's famous assault on the Plains of Abraham, had been erroneously confident that the heights at Queenston could not be scaled. The British commander and his men had no choice but to retreat. Before doing so, they performed one swift action: Brock and his gunners hammered a ramrod into the touchhole of the 18-pounder and broke it off, effectively spiking it and rendering it useless. The British then scuttled down the slope — Brock leading Alfred by the reins — leaving an elated Wool in control of the redan.

(Continued on page 45)

Escarpment Tour

From the Forty to the Twelve



The creeks of the Niagara Peninsula which tumble down the craggy cliffs of the Escarpment and flow northward to Lake Ontario were named according to their approximate distance from the Niagara River by settlers trekking inland from established villages such as *Queen's Town* (*Queenston*) to claim Crown land.

Along the banks of the *Twelve Mile Creek*, the *Twenty* and the *Forty*, these first settlers built log cabins, sawmills and grist mills establishing the agricultural nucleus essential for future growth.

Much of Niagara's past has survived into the twentieth century and is apparent in old buildings, Indian burial grounds and scenic landscapes.

Cuesta invites our readers to travel this historic part of the province and discover spectacular evidence of the region's pre-history, preserved remnants of its pioneer past and the scenic beauty of today's Niagara Escarpment.

The *Forty Mile Creek*, or the *Forty* as *Grimsby* was known prior to 1816 is one of the oldest settlements in the Niagara Region and the first stop on the tour.

GRIMSBY

Following the *American War of Independence* 1776-1783, those citizens loyal to the Crown found that they were no longer welcome in their communities. Many had no option but to make the arduous journey north to a new land beyond the Niagara River.

The first record of *United Empire Loyalists* settling on Crown-granted land in the area known as the *Forty* is dated 1787. Seven families from *New Jersey* arrived in July of that year and erected a temporary communal shanty. By late autumn, the houses of Nathaniel Pettit, John Green and Samuel Green were erected on an old Indian trail which ran from the lake to the base of the Escarpment along the west side of the creek; farther west of this road, which became known as *Patten Street*, strung out over 2.5 kilometres were the homes of John Pettit, Allan Nixon, Jacob Glover, Andrew Pettit, John Smith (known as little John Smith), John Smith (the cooper), John Beamer, Benjamin Willcox, Levi Lewis, Joseph Chambers and Isaac Chambers. On the east bank of the creek were the homes of Abraham Nelles, William Nelles, John Moore and his sons.

No sooner had the tentative roots of settlement been planted when the famine of 1789 hit. Crops dried up in

the parched ground and livestock succumbed to drought. The settlement scraped by on scanty food supplies from the garrison at Fort Niagara and what the devastated land could provide. At this point, it was debatable whether or not the settlement and its inhabitants would survive.

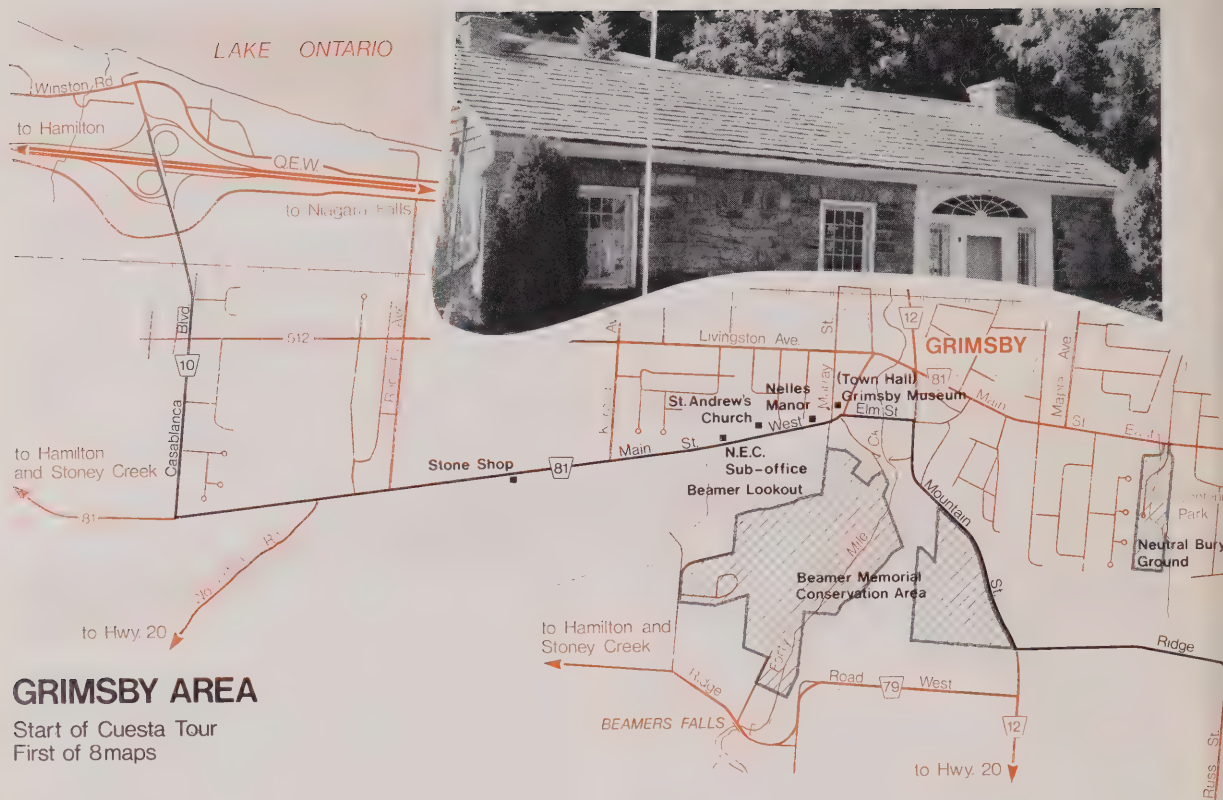
But survive they did, and by 1790 there were enough people to hold a town meeting in John Green's house to deal with such matters as fence heights and livestock markings. This meeting constituted the first known session of a municipal government in the province.

With the arrival in 1792 of John Graves Simcoe, the Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, the District of Nassau was divided into counties, and townships were given names instead of numbers. *Township number six* became *Grimsby Township* after Grimsby in Lincolnshire, England.

Shortly after receiving its name, the *Township of Grimsby* became embroiled in a battle to keep its newly-found status from American possession. During the *War of 1812* on June 8, 1813, American forces retreating from the debacle at Stoney Creek were bombarded by the British fleet under command of Sir James Lucas Yeo. This initial shelling was followed by a fierce attack by local men of the 4th and 5th Lincoln militia and a party of Indian allies which forced the enemy back from *Grimsby* to their temporary garrison at Fort George.

After the war, the residents of *Grimsby* concentrated on rebuilding their community; planting the first peach orchards in the shelter of the Escarpment in 1856; and opening the first canning factory in Canada nine years later. Peaches, cherries and pears rapidly became synonymous with Grimsby's economy.

But in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the small community of *Grimsby Beach*, located east of Grimsby, became a popular and fashionable summer resort rivaling Grimsby's orchards as a tourist attraction and commercial enterprise. In 1846, *Grimsby Beach* was the site of a huge temperance meeting and later a forty-hectare lakefront lot was purchased by the *Ontario Methodist Camp Ground Company*. Until the early 1900's, the area was used as a campground for the Methodist Church. So popular was this summer resort, that by 1888 a makeshift auditorium was replaced by a huge beehive-shaped structure known as the *Temple*.



GRIMSBY AREA

Start of Cuesta Tour
First of 8 maps

Visitors flocked to the park during the summer months, and by 1890 the park boasted two hotels, an ice-cream parlour, grocery store, drug store, barber shop, post office, bakery and butcher's stall. In its heyday the centre was known as the *Chautauqua of Canada* as it combined cultural entertainment with recreation. Today, a stone cairn and bell mark the location of the *Temple*.

From the Q.E.W. take the Casablanca Boulevard exit and travel southward to old Highway 8, now Regional Road 81. Turn left on Regional Road 81 travelling eastward to the former *Stone Shop Museum*.

THE OLD STONE SHOP

This unique stone building located at 271 Main Street West (Regional Road 81) was painstakingly renovated and opened as an historical museum by the *Grimsby Historical Society* in 1963. Until recently, it was a repository of pioneer implements, glass, papers and memorabilia relevant to the history of Grimsby.

The building was erected on Crown-granted land about 1800 by Allan Nixon, one of the original settlers of the *Forty*. He used the building first as a farm shop and later as a blacksmith's shop. During the *War of 1812*, both British and American forces used the building as a smithy.

While the current structure has not been restored to its original state, it is representative of Grimsby's pioneer past and serves as a fine example of early colonial architecture. The fan-light front door, the former Marlatt Inn door, has been incorporated into the new Grimsby Museum which is located at the site of the old Town Hall.

Continue travelling east on Regional Road 81 to 166 Main Street West which houses the Niagara Escarpment Commission's Grimsby office serving the

Regional Municipalities of Niagara and Hamilton-Wentworth.

Just past the N.E.C. office is *St. Andrew's Anglican Church* located at 154 Main Street West.

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Originally built of logs in 1794 on land donated by Colonel Robert Nelles, it was replaced by a frame structure in 1804. The current stone structure, one of the most impressive on the Escarpment, was erected between 1818-1825 and consecrated by Bishop C.J. Stewart in 1828. Many of the Loyalist founders of Grimsby are buried in St. Andrew's churchyard, making this beautiful church popular with history buffs and photographers alike.

Continue east on Regional Road 81 a short distance to the home of *Colonel Robert Nelles*.

NELLES MANOR

The home of one of Grimsby's first settlers, *Nelles Manor* is one of Ontario's few remaining 18th-century buildings. This fine old colonial home was built between 1788-98 by *Colonel Robert Nelles*, a Loyalist from the Mohawk Valley, New York. The home, which took ten years to complete, was constructed of local materials by ships' carpenters and stone masons.

At first, the front of the house faced north towards the lake and Augustus James' survey of 1789-1791 dubbed that road '*Esquire Nelles' Lane*'. But with the coming of Highway 8 from Hamilton to Niagara, the large front door became the rear entrance and an attractive pillared porch was added to the south entrance which faced the Escarpment.

Nelles Manor played a significant role during the *War of 1812*, as escaping British soldiers were hidden in a secret passage in the wainscoting during the brief

American occupation of Grimsby. *Nelles Manor* was the only large building in Grimsby to survive the war and the celebration marking the end of hostilities was held in the third-floor ballroom.

Colonel Nelles, an influential citizen, served with distinction as commanding officer of the 4th Lincoln Militia during the war. He also was a Justice of the Peace, a *Grimsby Township* warden, and a member of the Legislative Assembly.

Today this fine old home, exemplifying the grace and charm of a bygone era, is protected by a heritage easement held by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. A plaque located on the front lawn of *Nelles Manor* gives a brief history of the home and its first owner, *Colonel Nelles*.

Continue travelling east a short distance to a fork in the road where Main Street (Regional Road 81) intersects Elm Street.

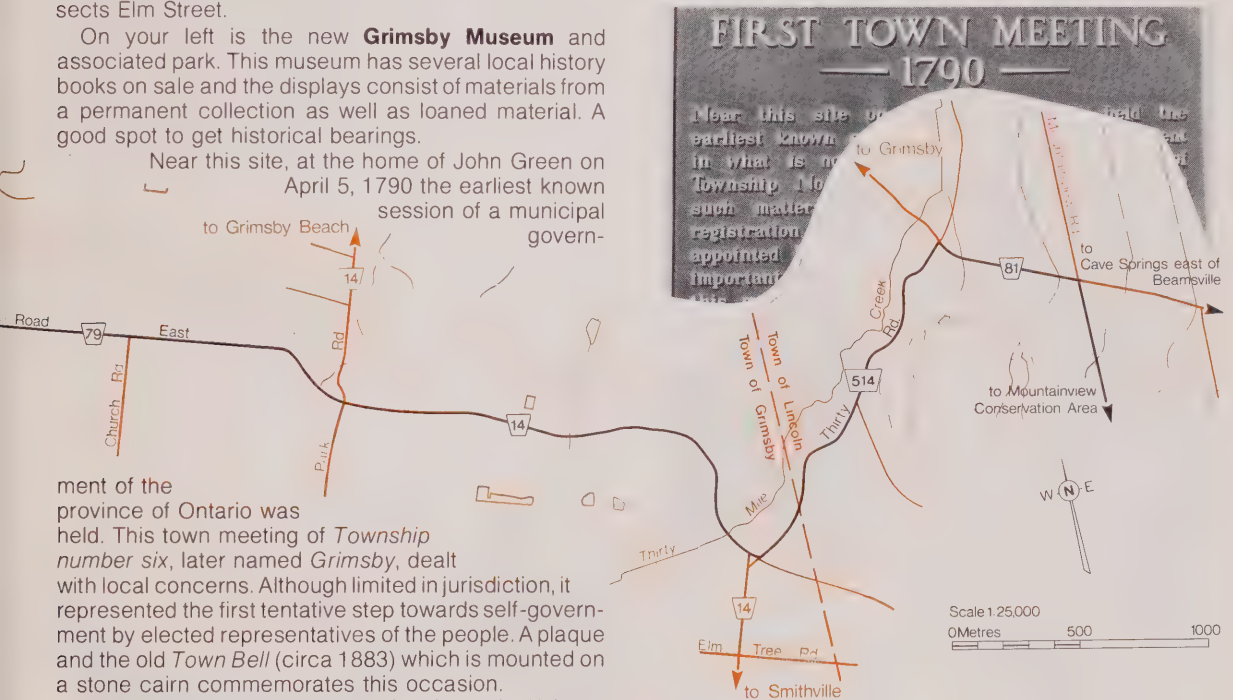
On your left is the new **Grimsby Museum** and associated park. This museum has several local history books on sale and the displays consist of materials from a permanent collection as well as loaned material. A good spot to get historical bearings.

Near this site, at the home of John Green on April 5, 1790 the earliest known session of a municipal govern-

ploughing a field would turn up a Neutral artifact but little substantive evidence of their passing had been discovered.

Then Mr. Lawson Allez, working on the Robinson property just west of Centennial park, discovered a collection of iron axes, copper kettles and beads. At first, he thought that he had unearthed the remnants of a pioneer homestead; but when a human skull was discovered, he stopped digging and placed a call to the Royal Ontario Museum.

Walter A. Kenyon, Curator of Canadian Archaeology, arrived in Grimsby on October 14, 1976 and immediately realized that the site was a discovery of exceptional importance. The unearthed material was dated around 1650 or slightly earlier and represented a collection of French trade goods.



ment of the province of Ontario was held. This town meeting of *Township number six*, later named *Grimsby*, dealt with local concerns. Although limited in jurisdiction, it represented the first tentative step towards self-government by elected representatives of the people. A plaque and the old *Town Bell* (circa 1883) which is mounted on a stone cairn commemorates this occasion.

Continue on Main Street (Regional Road 81) in an easterly direction past Maple Avenue to Centennial Park, the site of the *Neutral Burying Ground*.

NEUTRAL BURYING GROUND

This burial ground, discovered in 1976, is one of the few sites representative of the *Neutral Indians* to have survived intact into the twentieth century thus providing invaluable insight into the customs and lifestyle of this native group.

The Neutrals, or *Attiwandarons*, inhabited the Niagara Region, in the vicinity of the Escarpment, forming a buffer zone between the Iroquois to the south and the Hurons around Georgian Bay.

This 'neutral group' managed to maintain a precarious state of peace between their powerful neighbours by trading tobacco, corn, furs and flint implements. That is until 1650 when an alliance of Mohawk and Seneca warriors, literally on a campaign of genocide, wiped out the Neutrals as a nation.

For over 300 years, they remained a mystery-people and their ancestral home developed into the lush fruitland of the Niagara Region. Occasionally, a farmer

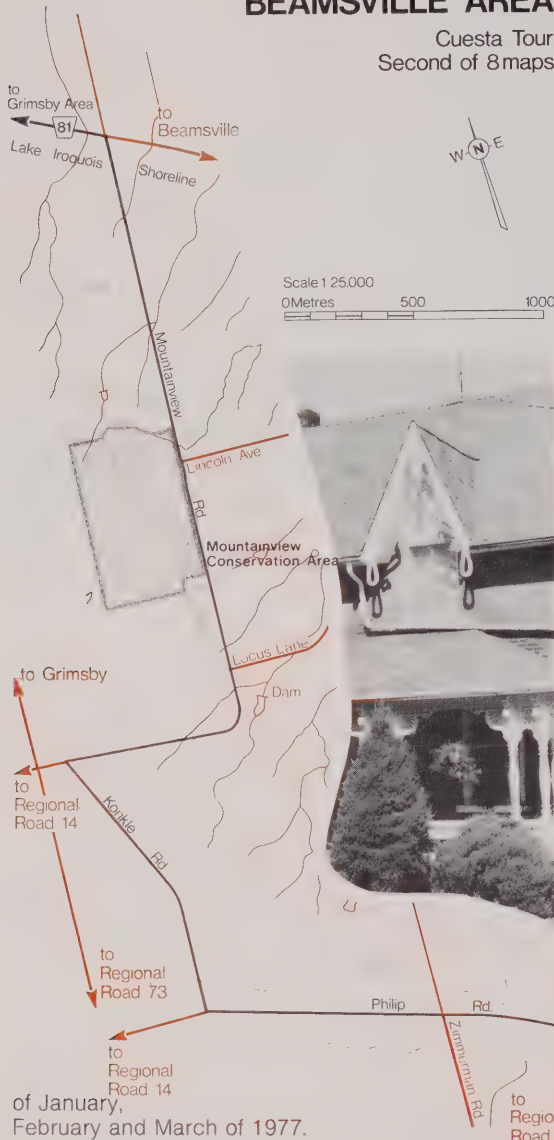
The Royal Ontario Museum immediately arranged for a permit from the former Ministry of Culture and Recreation, while Dr. Kenyon guarded the site with the tenacity of a brood hen in order to foil any unauthorized attempt at disturbing the graves. An evaluation of the artifacts in these long-forgotten graves by professional archaeologists would assist in reconstructing the daily lives of these people. And Dr. Kenyon was not about to miss that opportunity.

The remains of over 373 individuals were found to be carefully interred in 31 single graves and 24 multiple graves. The bodies were lovingly arranged mostly lying on the right side with knees drawn up to a comfortable angle and accompanied by a variety of wares including intricately carved combs, pipes, pottery, beads and mid-seventeenth century trade goods.

Due to legal difficulties which had started when the *Union of Ontario Indians* had placed Dr. Kenyon under citizen's arrest, the archaeological team was forced to work under adverse winter conditions. Devising an ingenious system to thaw out the ground, the team continued excavation into the bitterly cold months

BEAMSVILLE AREA

Cuesta Tour
Second of 8 maps



of January, February and March of 1977.

Six months after the excavation began, the work was completed on April 4, 1977 and 55 grave sites had been meticulously mapped and all items catalogued.

As a result of this find, invaluable inroads have been made into understanding this unknown people: We now know that the Neutrals were tall, healthy, well-nourished and hospitable.

One of the most fascinating finds was the remains of an adult female in grave-site No. 9. It is a matter of record that one of the first Europeans to visit the area was explorer Etienne Brule in 1625. He stayed with the Neutrals for a period of time and may have fathered the adult female found in the Grimsby grave. The general appearance of the skull was distinctly European while the dentition was Indian and the time-frame was accurate.

In concluding, Dr. Kenyon noted that the Neutrals' society was far from primitive and that they probably had extensive trade routes stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Chesapeake Bay.

A plaque, located in Centennial Park, commemorates the reinterment of these ancient remains.

Return to Regional Road 81 and proceed in a westerly direction to Mountain Street. Turn left and travel south. As you begin to climb the Escarpment, *Beamer Memorial Conservation Area*, an *Escarpment Natural Environment Park* is located on the right.

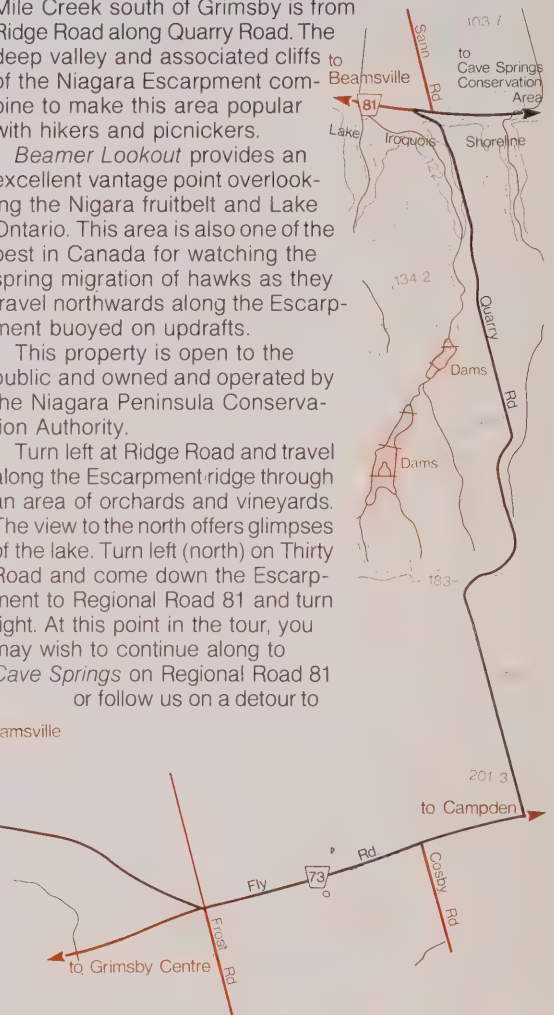
BEAMER MEMORIAL CONSERVATION AREA

Access to this 50-hectare park situated on the Forty Mile Creek south of Grimsby is from Ridge Road along Quarry Road. The deep valley and associated cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment combine to make this area popular with hikers and picnickers.

Beamer Lookout provides an excellent vantage point overlooking the Niagara fruitbelt and Lake Ontario. This area is also one of the best in Canada for watching the spring migration of hawks as they travel northwards along the Escarpment buoyed on updrafts.

This property is open to the public and owned and operated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

Turn left at Ridge Road and travel along the Escarpment ridge through an area of orchards and vineyards. The view to the north offers glimpses of the lake. Turn left (north) on Thirty Road and come down the Escarpment to Regional Road 81 and turn right. At this point in the tour, you may wish to continue along to *Cave Springs* on Regional Road 81 or follow us on a detour to



Mountainview Conservation Area which will take us across the ancient Lake Iroquois Shoreline.

Turn right (south) on Mountainview Road. On the right is *Mountainview Conservation Area* an *Escarpment Natural Environment Park*.

MOUNTAINVIEW CONSERVATION AREA

This wooded 25-hectare parcel of land is owned by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and is used primarily for hiking.

Continue south on Mountainview Road to Konkle Road. Turn left on Konkle Road, passing row upon row of Niagara's famous vineyards to Philip Road. Turn left on Philip Road and travel east to Fly Road. Fly Road marks the edge of the good grapegrowing lands above the Escarpment. Turn left (north) on Quarry Road which provides excellent views of Lake Ontario. In the

distance, on a clear day, Toronto's CN Tower is visible. Travelling northward on Quarry Road, the Lake Iroquois Shoreline is again evident.

Turn right at Regional Road 81 and proceed to Cave Springs Road which leads to an *Escarpment Nature Reserve*.

CAVE SPRINGS CONSERVATION AREA

Located 2.5 kilometres southeast of Beamsville, this area includes a forested Escarpment plain, crevasse valleys, prominent cliff face, several lookouts, and archaeological and natural sites.

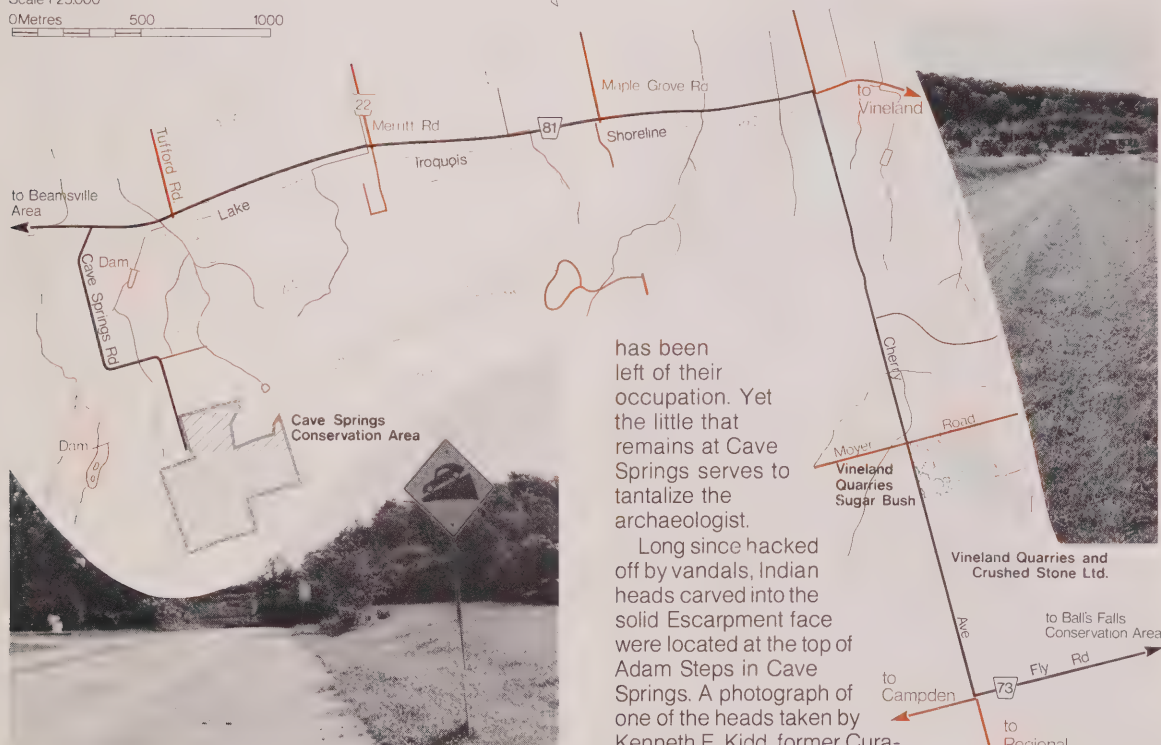
Approximately 18 hectares are in public ownership although the terms of purchase preclude this area

CAVE SPRINGS AREA

Cuesta Tour
Third of 8 maps

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has been left of their occupation. Yet the little that remains at Cave Springs serves to tantalize the archaeologist.

Long since hacked off by vandals, Indian heads carved into the solid Escarpment face were located at the top of Adam Steps in Cave Springs. A photograph of one of the heads taken by Kenneth E. Kidd, former Curator of Ethnology at the Royal Ontario Museum and a clay impression made by George Pepper of Niagara Falls attest to the presence of native groups in the Cave Springs area.

And Ian T. Kenyon, Field Archaeologist with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, while conducting a survey of the area, discovered flint chips in the vicinity of the carved heads. This evidence, coupled with the *Neutral Burying Ground* ten kilometres to the west, adds to the possibility that *Cave Springs* was the site of an ancient Indian encampment.

Another tale that has resulted in tangible archaeological evidence of Indian occupation is the purported existence of a lost cave or rock crevice filled with artifacts. Stumbled on by Emerson Grobb, a Campden-area farmer, on his way home after a night's carousing in

(Continued on page 32)

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Centre Street
Allanburg, Ontario
L0S 1A0
Telephone: (416) 227-1013

The original *Cave Springs Farm* comprised 100 acres, half of Lot II, Concession IV, of the Township of Clinton. William F. Rannie in his book *Cave Springs Farm — in lore and legend* notes: "Over the years this unique Indian and Loyalist settlement with its tales of a Neutral village, a cave rich in artifacts, mysterious visitors, World War I spies, and an underground cave with ice in midsummer, has exerted a compelling attraction upon all who have come under the spell of its mystique."

Perhaps part of the powerful attraction is due to the fact that *Cave Springs* abounds with enigmas.

While the presence of Indians in this area of Ontario may date back 10,000 years, little concrete evidence

being open to the public without prior consent.

The Niagara Escarpment Commission played a principal role in the acquisition of this provincially significant natural area. In the *Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment* released in 1979 and the *Final Proposed Plan* released in 1983, the Commission assigned Cave Springs a top-priority rating.

To date, only a small portion of the original *Cave Springs Farm* has been purchased. However, proposed future acquisition will assist in preserving the visual and ecological integrity of this part of the Niagara Peninsula.

Prior to visiting this site, which is under constraints according to the terms of purchase, the *Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority* should be contacted.

Mists, Magic and Mineral Water



PHOTO: P. SOPER

Margaret Reed

Interest in the Niagara Escarpment's spring water didn't completely die out with the decline and fall of St. Catharines' resort spas.

Cave Springs, located west of St. Catharines and southeast of Beamsville is a case in point.

This enchanting 18-hectare property boasts two, continually-flowing mineral springs which have completely escaped twentieth-century progress and its accompanying pollution.

Protected within the natural environment of the Niagara Escarpment, the *Cave Springs* property was earmarked as a top-priority acquisition area in the *Proposed Plan for the Niagara Escarpment*, released in 1979. Subsequent land acquisition by the *Niagara*

Peninsula Conservation Authority and the *Ministry of Natural Resources* has assured the future preservation of this pristine property. And this state of environmental purity is carefully nurtured by a sprightly, ageless, diminutive lady who is known locally as the '*Witch of Cave Springs*'.

Witch is definitely a misnomer, certainly a good witch, '*if witch she be*'; rather the lady conjures up images of a Delphic oracle and is possessed with the green wisdom of a distaff Merlin.

Margaret Reed, who has continually advocated the preservation of this unique and historic area, was granted life tenure on *Cave Springs Farm* in 1981 — and none could tend the property more faithfully or conscientiously.

She is particularly proud of *Cave Springs* mineral water which is used in every aspect of her daily life. Although she hasn't noticed any specific laxative effects which nineteenth-century physicians attributed to mineral water, Reed maintains that food cooked in spring water tastes fresher. She also notices a discernible difference in the taste of her cooking compared to that of other people and, consequently, she adamantly refuses even to drink water in a restaurant.

"Spring water is organic, natural and completely free of pollution and additives," she enthuses. "I notice a hundred per cent difference in the taste, feel and look of my water compared to ordinary tap water."

The former medical insurance agent claims the purity of the water is its secret. "It permeates the personality," she says with blue eyes twinkling, "and if one feels good, one looks and acts accordingly."

Certainly, Margaret Reed is excellent proof to her claims. She crackles with abundant energy and hikes through the property, pointing out various points of historical or geological interest, with the gait of a woman half her age. She confides that school-age children who visit the farm often have trouble keeping up with her — **Cuesta** personnel would concur!

The healthful properties of *Cave Springs* water are becoming increasingly well-known and, according to Reed, doctors send dozens of people to *Cave Springs* regularly to get water.

"People who have allergies or are unable to tolerate the chemicals in ordinary water, come to *Cave Springs*

(Continued on page 43)

Fathom Five Abounds with Sunken Treasure

Fathom Five Provincial Park, Canada's only freshwater park, contains a treasuretrove of marine history within its pie-shaped boundaries. Lying on the bottom of reef-encrusted channels and coves off the tip of the Bruce Peninsula are no fewer than nineteen wrecks which offer unsurpassed diving opportunities.

Most of the wrecked vessels foundered during the ferocious storms of late autumn which, although familiar to the year-round resident of Tobermory, are difficult for the fair-weather visitor to imagine. Stan McClellan, *Fathom Five's* superintendent and a permanent resident of 'The Tub' concurs: "We get some horrendous storms in October and November and five to six-metre waves which cause incredible currents are not unusual."

Now lying peacefully within *Fathom Five Provincial Park*, the wrecks not only offer a concrete record of nineteenth-century marine history from the hard-working tug to an ocean-going cargo ship; but also provide a great deal for the sport diver to see and touch. All have been well preserved in the cold, fresh water of Georgian Bay and by provincial measures taken to protect their nautical legacy.

In operation since 1973 as a result of considerable effort on the part of the Department of Lands and Forests (currently the Ministry of Natural Resources), *Fathom Five* provides unlimited underwater adventure. Within this 11,655-hectare water-based park are all the necessary raw materials to develop such peripheral diving hobbies as underwater photography, geology, or amateur archaeology.

And the word is out in diving circles that *Fathom Five* is tops.

In 1983 alone, approximately 7,000 divers, attracted by the outstanding water quality, and the abundance of submerged historical and geological sites, registered at the park's Visitor Centre. McClellan estimates that, based on the assumption that each registered diver will make three dives, in excess of 20,000 dives are made annually.

"There is probably more diving done in that concentrated area off Tobermory than anywhere else in North America," affirmed McClellan. "And our facilities here rank with the best."

Among those facilities are no fewer than three dive shops in the village of Tobermory which supply necessary diving paraphernalia; at least twelve charter



PHOTO: P. SOPER

Stan McClellan

vessels aimed specifically at supplying diver transportation; and a hyperbaric chamber for treating decompression sickness located at the Tobermory Medical Clinic which was purchased by the Ministry of Natural Resources and donated to St. Edmunds Township.

All of these factors combine to make *Fathom Five Provincial Park* Ontario's most popular diving area, and also one of the safest in North America.

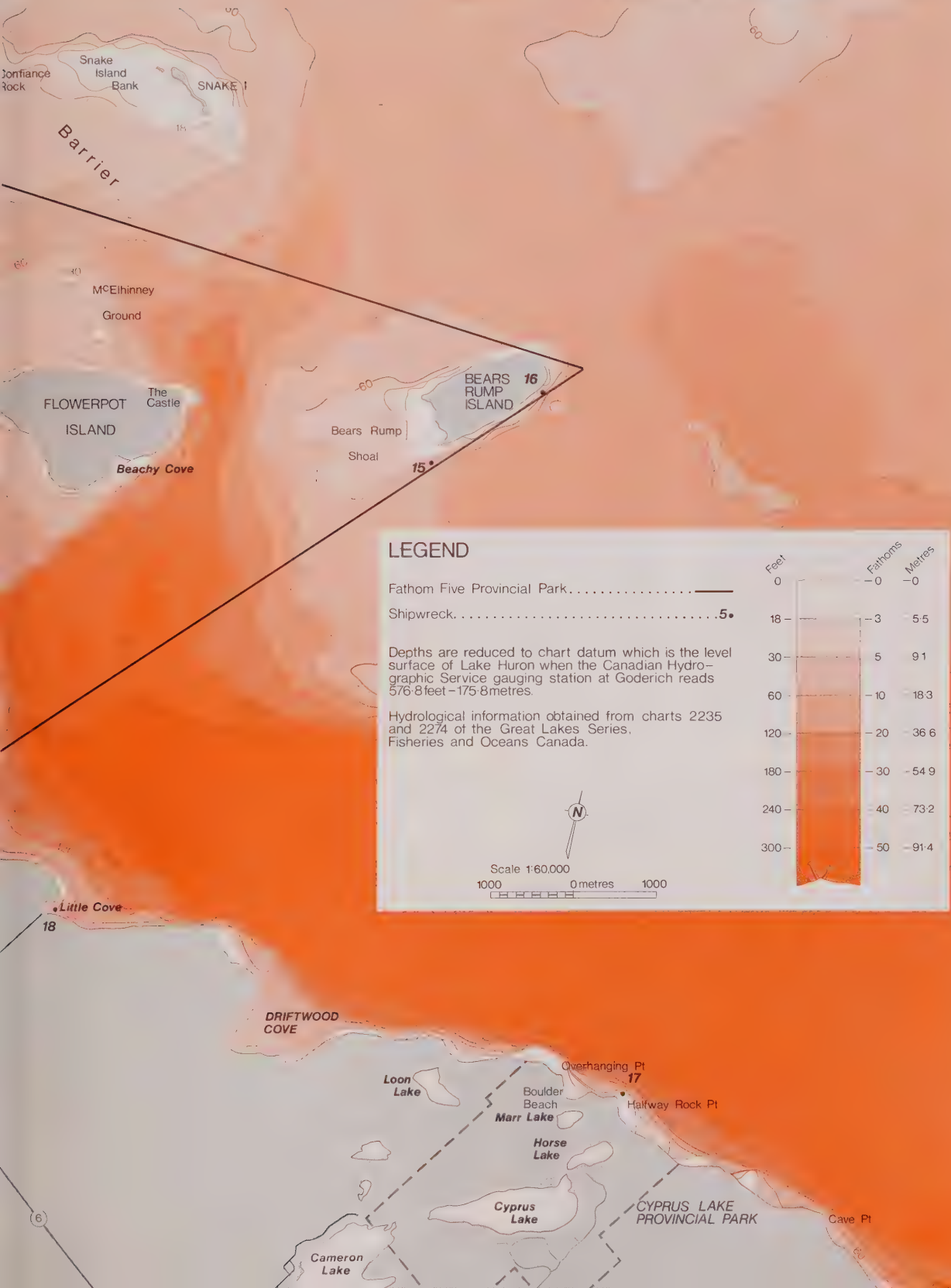
Part of *Fathom Five's* reputation as a diving mecca and the park's exemplary safety record are due to the dedication of the park staff and the vigilance of a select core of volunteers from the *Ontario Underwater Council*.

Each year approximately nineteen members of the *Ontario Underwater Council* — the sport governing body for skin and scuba diving within Ontario — work closely with *Fathom Five Provincial Park* staff to ensure that divers are informed of area attractions and park regulations.

(Continued on page 29)



FATHOM FIVE PROVINCIAL PARK





PHOTOS COURTESY IATHOM F.V.I. PROVIN. A. PATK



(Continued from page 25)

"These volunteers are invaluable in providing a 'one-on-one' form of public relations," noted McClellan. "We could not be nearly as effective with our visitor program without their assistance."

By supplementing staff on the diver registration program, providing dock contacts, and assisting in the patrol program, these unpaid volunteers have earned the respect of visiting divers and *Fathom Five* staff alike.

The volunteer program has also been extended to involve a substantial restoration project of the most popular of the harbour wrecks, the *Sweepstakes*.

The *Sweepstakes* had been a popular wreck not only for divers but also for glass-bottom tour boats. Each season an estimated 30,000 visitors viewed the *Sweepstakes'* remains; however, time and wave action were endangering its continued popularity.

The Ontario Underwater Council volunteers undertook the structural restoration of the hull by raising the deck, holding the hull in place with steel rods, and lastly lowering the deck back into place.

While rebuilding shipwrecks is not normally done, thousands of future tourists will be able to view a partially restored *Sweepstakes* thanks to the efforts of these volunteers.

Another important component of *Fathom Five's* Visitor Program is *Diver Registration* which primarily acts as a safety information program while also being a factor in policing activities within the park and protecting non-renewable resources.

During registration, visitors are provided with information on local conditions and site depths, and are encouraged to visit sites commensurate with their diving experience.

"We do not like to be in a position of telling divers where they can and cannot go," said McClellan. "Like any other recreational sport, these people have had training and should be aware of their own level of competence."

Fathom Five staff indicate those sites which may require extra precaution and reinforce safety information to enable divers to plan their dives accordingly. If, for instance, the dive is particularly deep, divers may have to consider decompression stops and additional safety measures.

The registration program also provides an opportunity to underscore the park's central theme of man's integral relationship with the resources of the water and the land. And *Fathom Five* staff actively campaign to ensure the on-going protection of these non-renewable resources.

"Not only is the preservation of the wrecks our concern but also the numerous geological features of the submerged Escarpment," affirmed McClellan. "The regulations governing dives prohibit the removal of anything from the park — all of which are pretty well non-renewable."

Of course, when it comes to unethical pilfering, it is the wrecks themselves that take the biggest beating. And this type of needless pillage strips the ships of their nautical history and diminishes their potential research value. Fortunately, most divers adhere to a strict code of ethics and dive into Georgian Bay for the adventure and not for the potential loot.

Another measure implemented by *Fathom Five* staff to reduce possible damage to the wrecks has been the restriction of most dive sites to boating unless a permit has been obtained from the Park Office. Once a permit has been obtained, boats are requested to tie on to



PHOTO COURTESY FATHOM FIVE PROVINCIAL PARK

Splash down — diver explores *Fathom Five's* underwater treasure.

mooring systems adjacent to the wreck site rather than dropping an anchor which could cause substantial damage.

While Stan McClellan is the only full-time member of *Fathom Five's* staff, he is ably assisted by Glen Dunham, the Park Warden, who is on duty for about eight months of the year. However, during the hectic summer season, there are a total of seven members on staff including student staff — all of whom are accomplished divers.

Well before the Tobermory tourist season hits full swing, park staff are busy installing mooring systems, generally sprucing up facilities and preparing displays and information materials in preparation for another component of their work: preparing resource inventories of the wrecks, mapping the sites and conducting archaeological surveys.

McClellan, a respected amateur archaeologist who has received a citation for his work in the field, has been involved in several key archaeological projects. The one which tops the list is the incredible search for La Salle's **Griffon**.

Built in 1678 by order of the French explorer, Rene-Robert Cavalier de la Salle, the **Griffon** was the first ship to sail the Great Lakes and the first wreck to lie beneath its waters. Lost on September 18, 1679 with all hands on board, her whereabouts have remained a complete mystery for centuries.

(Continued on page 49)

Running with New Directions

The wind rustles the maple leaves overhead; a hawk's cry pierces the stillness.

Blocking out all distractions, you concentrate on the map before you and adjust your compass. Completely alone, you are facing nature's challenge and testing the limits of your endurance.

Other 'map runners' are out there, devising strategies and searching out routes through the woods. You cannot think about them — your singular goal is to punch in at the last orange and white flag and cross the finish line with a good time.

Turning decisively, you start running in an easterly direction towards the large boulder by the stream — you are orienteering!

Orienteering Ontario, a nonprofit organization funded largely by the Ontario government, defines orienteering as a "recognized Olympic Sport which combines decision-making, endurance, speed and navigational skills."

Although it has yet to be included in the Olympics, orienteering is fast becoming a popular family sport, combining outdoor activity and physical fitness with logistics and map interpretation. It is this mix of map reading and running that makes the sport so unique and challenging. Not only is the body challenged to complete the course as quickly as possible, the mind must constantly search out the best route from a host of possibilities. And the best route for each individual runner may vary based on topography and physical condition.

Weekend meets, organized by local orienteering clubs, provide an ideal environment in which to test your basic potential, to gain some experience, and to share what you have learned with others. For regardless of how competitive they may be while on a course, orienteers are an enthusiastically helpful lot.

Many southern Ontario meets are held within the area of the Niagara Escarpment because it offers outstanding orienteering terrain. The rolling hills, woods, streams, dense vegetation, rocks and swamps of the Escarpment test the orienteers' abilities and are instrumental in preparing some of them for the *World Orienteering Championships*.

Ann Budge, one of the founders of the *Credit Valley Orienteering Club*, contends that the Escarpment area offers world-class orienteering terrain and unsurpassed training areas.



PHOTO: P. SOPER

Ann Budge punches in at a control point during demonstration meet at Terra Cotta.

Budge has been orienteering since 1971, when her husband introduced her and their two daughters, Susan and Heather, to the sport. The first time out she found herself, at 34, 'shocked' at her level of fitness and, initially, stuck with a regime of running and orienteering to get back in to shape. Then she got hooked and began to orienteer for pure esoteric pleasure. "It's a really nice feeling to step into the coolness of the woods on a hot day," she says, "and as you concentrate on the course, become aware of the smell and the presence of nature around you."

Ann Budge explains that just as an artist or a musician develops an intuitive appreciation for his particular medium of expression, so the 'map runner' develops an intuitive feel for the 'lay of the land'. "It's an added bonus," notes Budge, "to become sensitive to and appreciative of the land beneath your feet."

She emphasizes that orienteering, while similar in some aspects, is very different from conventional running events. For one thing, courses aren't preset for competitors which precludes an opportunity to practise the course before a race. The choice of the course is ultimately the runner's, and therein lies the challenge. Only the set location of the control points provides a clue to the optimum route. By comparison, Budge considers traditional running competitions lacklustre and "just a matter of following the masses down the road."

In orienteering, you run alone.

It was the challenge of the unknown and the strategy involved in choosing the best route that kept Budge orienteering long after she had achieved her goal of personal fitness. "That's the unique part of orienteering," she enthuses, "the overall route choice and finding the quickest route between each control."

Because the route choice is so important, orienteers must make many stops during a run, searching for the control points located on their maps. Each control is marked with a visible orange and white, three-sided flag approximately 25 centimetres square — not one can be missed to successfully complete the course. A small punch is attached to the flag which marks each runner's control card, providing proof that the control point has been visited.

While orienteering isn't a 'treasure hunt' with hidden markers and trick instructions, the fairly visible orange and white control points can still prove elusive. According to Budge, plenty of satisfaction can be derived from just locating them. "You can come back not having clocked the most outstanding time and be really pleased with yourself for not having made any mistakes," she says. "That's a very satisfying aspect of the sport."

Many orienteering buffs would heartily agree. There appears to be a place for everyone in this flexible running discipline, even for those who have always classed themselves as non-athletic.

Budge stresses that the fastest runner is not always the winner because of the added element of map-reading ability. "It doesn't really matter how fast you're running," she says with a wry smile, "if it's in the wrong direction."

This navigational requirement separates orienteering from other running sports such as cross-country or marathon running because each course demands a different approach and the competitor must constantly adapt to new challenges.

The ability to adapt is one of the most important skills an orienteer will develop. In his article *Competitive Orienteering*, Ron Lowry contends that adaptability to the terrain is paramount if the orienteer wishes to succeed:

"Orienteering is a sport where the environment, the forest and the terrain are changing constantly. The skills and techniques used in the rolling deciduous woodlands of southern Ontario are quite different

from those required for the more rugged and hillier forests of the northern Canadian Shield and are different again from the skills necessary for success on the steep alpine slopes of Switzerland."

Success in orienteering increases in direct proportion to a runner's experience on a wide variety of terrain. And with increased experience, come increased confidence, self-reliance and resourcefulness. That's when orienteering becomes 'adventure running'.

For those of us not quite ready to meet the challenge of 'the great outdoors', never fear — there are various levels of orienteering to ease into, progressing from beginner to elite.

Each orienteering meet provides courses, categorized by colour, of varying degrees of difficulty: beginner, intermediate and advanced which includes an elite class. Each competitor is armed with an orienteering, topographic-type map of the area, descriptions of control locations, a compass and a control card.

Control locations on the beginner's course are placed in obvious areas such as along paths, on the edges of fields, on fences, or along streams. These well-defined features act as 'handrails' to soothe fears about getting lost. "This course teaches skills," Budge explains. "The ability to read and interpret maps is a bit like mathematics or music — some people have a lot more basic potential than others. They have a natural perceptual ability but, with practice and perseverance, anyone can learn to decipher maps."

The beginner's course, or white course, is usually two or three kilometres long and has an age classification of twelve and under. It also offers a *Wayfarer's Class* designed for first-timers to tackle the course in a group — proving the truth of the old maxim that there is 'security in numbers'.

The intermediate, or yellow course, provides more challenge by offering more route choice. Controls are moved to less conspicuous points and the course averages three to four and a half kilometres.

Advanced courses include an 'elite' category. 'Elite' women compete on a red course which is seven to nine kilometres long, while 'elite' men run the eight to eleven-kilometre blue course. Controls are located on land features that are difficult to identify such as small depressions, pits or spurs.

The advanced and 'elite' runners rely on their compasses in conjunction with the indispensable topographical map. These maps are generally prepared on a scale of 1:15,000, although this may vary and a runner must be prepared to adapt to such variables. However, the symbols and colours used on the maps, and the course rules are standard worldwide.

The map serves three important functions: first, it shows the course's terrain at a glance; secondly, when held properly it represents the ground as it lies; and lastly, it enables the runner to choose the optimum route.

Apparently, animals have an innate ability to travel through dense woods in a straight line; but humans tend to veer off and travel in circles. In order to keep orienteers on the straight and narrow, the travel arrow of the compass is placed on the map pointing in the direction the orienteer wishes to go. While the compass locates magnetic north, the travel arrow enables the runner to maintain a straight course through the densest terrain.

(Continued on page 48)

(Continued from page 23)

Beamsville, the cave yielded a large clay pot which now resides in the Royal Ontario Museum's collection of New World Archaeology. On his return to the cave to collect more Indian relics, Grobb was unable to relocate the site. To date no one has been able to verify the existence of this cave, and only the clay pot attests to the accuracy of Grobb's claim.

Cave Springs' more recent history records that a private in the Butler's Rangers named 'Harmonious' House was granted land in this area for services rendered during the American Revolution. The land lying between the old Mohawk trail and the base of the Escarpment was probably settled in 1798.

Over the years, a succession of seventeen owners has changed Cave Springs to a happy mix of the pastoral and the natural. But not all owners maintained or improved the area's natural beauty; some inadvertently did irreparable damage to Cave Springs' unique ecology.

One owner, a Robert Lamont, is responsible for many of the substantive changes made. With the help of a dowsler, he located spring water and excavated a small reservoir. He built a road up the Escarpment and used it to haul timber and firewood from the forested crest. Mr. Lamont was also responsible for the near destruction of the ice cave which was used to store fruits and vegetables. In an effort to commercialize the cave, he tried to enlarge it by using dynamite. The resulting explosion brought down the limestone roof almost blocking off the entrance entirely and crushing Lamont's dreams of easy money.

BALL'S FALLS AREA

Cuesta Tour
Fourth of 8 maps

Scale 1:25,000

0 Metres 500 1000



But the tales and the magic of Cave Springs have never been destroyed: spies, carvings, owls, underground lakes and mystery are shrouded in fact and folklore stretching back to pre-history and forward to a future made more certain by measures taken to preserve the land.

Return to Regional Road 81 and proceed to Cherry Avenue, turn right and climb the old Lake Iroquois line to the first rise or step of the Niagara Escarpment. The wooded area on the left is the Vineland Quarries Sugar Bush.

VINELAND QUARRIES SUGAR BUSH

This 10-hectare sugar-maple woodlot is owned by Vineland Quarries and Crushed Stone Ltd., and

operated by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

From approximately the last week in February to the end of March, demonstrations of maple syrup production from Indian methods to modern evaporation systems are available. The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority also hosts an annual 'Sugarfest' festival at the site and will arrange guided tours through the bush for groups.

During the 1920's and 30's this productive woodlot was the site of a bustling business owned and operated by Sam Culp. Today, thanks to the generosity of Vineland Quarries and Crushed Stone Ltd., the production of maple sugar products still continues.

Travel south on Cherry Avenue and turn left (east) on Fly Road. On the left is Vineland Quarries and Crushed Stone Ltd. Turn right (south) on Victoria Avenue (Regional Road 24), and proceed to 6th Avenue Louth (Regional Road 75). Turn left and pass over the Twenty Mile Creek to the parking lot at Ball's Falls Conserva-

BALL'S FALLS CONSERVATION AREA

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority owns this 90-hectare property which is used for camping, hiking and day-use activities. This natural and geological area includes historic buildings, ruins and two waterfalls. Used extensively for historical and educational programs, it is also the site of numerous community and authority sponsored events.

The scenic falls, approximately two kilometres apart,

are popular in spring and winter with photographers. Escarpment rock strata are plainly visible along the banks of the gorge also making this a popular area for geologists.

The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority acquired 45 hectares of this historic area from the Ball family in 1962 ending a tenure by the Balls that had been unbroken for over one hundred and fifty years.

Ball's Falls Conservation Area owes its pioneer beginnings to that particularly hardy group of *United Empire Loyalists* known as *Butler's Rangers* who during the American Revolution operated out of a base at Fort Niagara while conducting raids on Cherry and Wyoming Valleys. For this service to the Crown, rangers were allotted choice parcels of land located mainly in the Niagara Peninsula.

Under a Crown grant dated June 25, 1803, 1,500 acres consisting of Lots 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23 in Concessions 5 and 6 of the Township of Louth were deeded to Thomas Butler, Andrew Butler, Johnson Butler and their sister, Deborah.

The Butler family never farmed the area and on October 13, 1807 sold 1,200 acres to John and George Ball for one hundred and fifty pounds sterling.

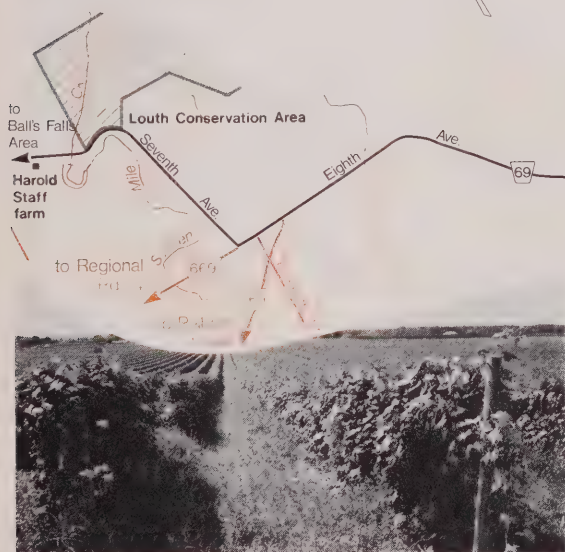
The Balls were to maintain and improve this land through four successive generations until 1962 and build a thriving industrial complex on the banks of the Twenty Mile Creek known as *Glen Elgin*.

ROCKWAY AREA

Cuesta Tour
Fifth of 8 maps

Scale 1:25,000

0 Metres 500 1000



The first commercial enterprise was a grist mill built of hand-hewn logs in 1810. This mill became so important to the commerce of Louth Township that during the *War of 1812*, two companies of the 104th regiment were stationed at the mill to prevent it from falling into American hands. Originally run by water-power, the mill was converted to steam during the 1840's to overcome a shortage of water during the dry season.

The Ball complex continued to expand to include a sawmill located on the edge of the Escarpment a little west of the grist mill, a cooper's shop which made barrels in which to ship flour, a blacksmith's shop, and three lime kilns.

Lime for the kilns was quarried from the top of the Escarpment ridge near the Ball home. After processing, the lime was used as mortar for laying brick and stone and for plastering interior walls. Much of the lime produced here was sold to nearby St. Catharines.

By 1830 this thriving complex, known as *Ball's Mills* included a five-storey woollen mill built by *George Ball*. The woollen mill provided employment for a number of people and supported the growth of the small community. By 1850, the area was known as *Glen Elgin*; however, the closing of the mill in 1883 marked the end of the early industrial expansion of Louth Township and the growth of the Glen Elgin complex.

Conservation Area Open:

From Victoria Day holiday weekend to Thanksgiving Day

An admission fee is charged.

Historical Park Buildings Open:

Victoria Day to Labour Day

Monday to Friday: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays: 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

From September to May

Monday to Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

For groups and school tours contact:

Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority
Centre Street

Allanburg, Ontario

L0S 1A0

Telephone: (416) 227-1013

Continue on 6th Avenue Louth (Regional Road 75) turn left on Regional Road 575. Travel north on Regional Road 575 which becomes 19th Street.

At the intersection of Regional Road 81 and 19th Street, veer left crossing Regional Road 81 behind the Jordan Hotel to Main Street. On the right is the *Jordan Historical Museum of the Twenty*.

JORDAN HISTORICAL MUSEUM OF THE TWENTY

The community of *Jordan* dates back to 1755, when it was called *Twenty Mile Creek*. The Loyalist and Mennonite settlers who came to the area in 1790 and the early 1800's renamed the creek, *Jordan River*. Eventually the settlement became known as *Jordan*.

The museum consists of three buildings: the *Vintage House*, a stone *schoolhouse*, and the *Jacob Fry House* (circa 1815). Exhibits of local historical interest include pioneer farm implements, weapons, kitchenware and furniture.

Of special interest is a rare fruit-press which stands adjacent to the Vintage House. The Vintage House was built in 1840 by *Isaac Wismer* and was once owned by *Jordan Wines* when they occupied the building directly across Main Street.

Just a short block down the road stands the old *Jordan School*, (circa 1859) which contains students' notebooks dating back to the 1800's.

On the same lot as the stone school is the *Fry House*, the home of Jordan's earliest settler. Beautifully constructed in Pennsylvania-style architecture, the home is furnished with original artifacts. This site also affords a superb view of the Jordan Valley.

Packed full of memorabilia showing what life was like in Louth Township 200 years ago, this museum is a must to visit.

Open: Mid-May to last Sunday in October
Daily from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Continue on Main Street to Wismer Street, turn right at Wismer Street and right again at 19th Street returning to Regional Road 81. Travel east (left) on Regional Road 81. At the intersection of Regional Road 81 and 17th Street, turn right and head south.

At the intersection of 17th Street and 7th Avenue turn left, on the right is the farm of Harold Staff who operates a modern and diverse farming operation; a little farther along on the left is *Louth Conservation Area*, an *Escarpment Nature Reserve*.

LOUTH CONSERVATION AREA

This 32-hectare nature area is owned by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and is used for hiking, nature appreciation and viewing.

Turn left onto 8th Avenue (Regional Road 69) and travel a short distance to *Rockway Falls Conservation Area* which is just before the bridge over the Fifteen Mile Creek.

ROCKWAY FALLS CONSERVATION AREA

Picnicking and hiking are the main uses of this 85-hectare *Escarpment Nature Reserve* owned by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority.

It is a geologic and nature site containing a scenic waterfall which occurs as the waters of the Fifteen Mile Creek tumble 40 metres down the face of the Niagara Escarpment.

Excellent hiking trails abound and the amateur botanist can discover examples of Carolinian vegetation such as sassafras and flowering dogwood.

The area also contains the remnants of what may be one of the earliest salt wells ever sunk in Upper Canada.

Continue on 8th Avenue to Wessel Road and turn right. Travel through an area of open pasture and horse paddocks until reaching Effingham Road (Regional Road 28). Turn right at Effingham Road and continue southbound on Regional Road 28 which will merge with Regional Road 32, towards the *Fonthill Kame Moraine* until reaching the historic village of *Effingham*.

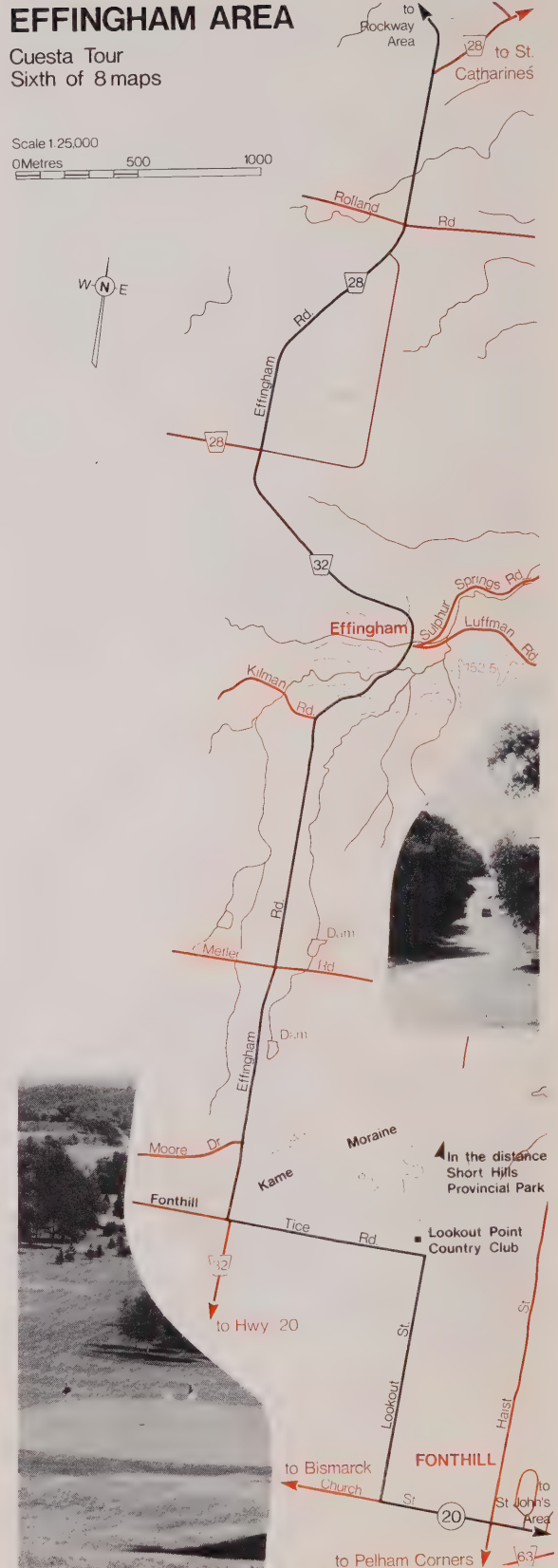
The quaint ice-cream parlour located in the heart of the village was once the general store and it has been lovingly restored to reflect a pioneer past. Once known as Beckett's Mills, **Effingham** is one of the Township of Pelham's earliest pioneer settlements. Local property owners take pride in restoring the remnants of earlier days and a new Effingham is emerging while close contact with the past is maintained.

EFFINGHAM AREA

Cuesta Tour
Sixth of 8 maps

Scale 1:25,000

0 Metres 500 1000



ST. JOHNS AREA

Cuesta Tour
Seventh of 8 maps



Continue on Effingham Road travelling up to the **Fonthill Kame Moraine**. The kame is considered to be a provincially significant geologic feature. Much of the wooded portion of the kame contains Carolinian Forest species which account for only .19% of the deciduous forest species found in Ontario. The *Fonthill Kame* is a highly scenic and integral part of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment.

In the distance *Short Hills Provincial Park*, a unique geological formation of picturesque rolling hills, can be seen.

SHORT HILLS PROVINCIAL PARK

This 645-hectare park is owned and operated by the Ministry of Natural Resources. Characteristic short hills are found in a re-entrant valley of the Niagara Escarpment. There is also a scenic waterfall and a land bridge. The park is used extensively for hiking and nature interpretation.

Turn left on Tice Road, which becomes Lookout Road, and travel east passing the *Lookout Point Country Club*. From this vantage point, one of the highest elevations on the Escarpment, Lake Ontario to the north and Niagara Falls can be seen on a clear day.

Turn left on Highway 20 and travel east into **Fonthill** passing the Ministry of Natural Resources' Niagara District Office.

Turn left at Pelham Street and travel northward to Hollow Road, turn right passing a low-lying, market-garden area and follow the valley of the Twelve Mile Creek to *St. Johns Conservation Area*. At a point where Hollow Road turns sharply to the left, a signed laneway marks the entrance to this *Escarpment Natural Environment Park*.

ST. JOHNS CONSERVATION AREA

This 32-hectare tract of land is owned by the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority. *St. Johns* includes a portion of the only cold-water, spring-fed creek in the Niagara Region — the *Twelve Mile Creek*. A man-made trout pond is popular with anglers while hiking trails attract the naturalist and photographer. This area exhibits spectacular flower displays in spring and summer.

Continue along Hollow Road towards *St. Johns Outdoor Studies Centre*, *Short Hills Provincial Park* is still visible in the distance to your left.

ST. JOHNS OUTDOOR STUDIES CENTRE

The *St. Johns* Centre was established by the Niagara South Board of Education in 1970 in response to the invitation of a local resident and with the support of the community. The centre is open ten months of the year and operates almost entirely on private property.

A plaque in front of the Centre unveiled by the Niagara Escarpment Commission in 1979 marks the geological formation of the Short Hills. Over 100 permanent programs are available for students from kindergarten to grade 13. Courses include: orienteering, a variety of self-guiding trails, art, mapping, social studies, woodland management, microclimate studies and language arts.

Other programs are located in the *Upper Canada Schoolhouse* (circa 1804) which has been carefully restored by the Niagara South Board of Education and once served the children of the historic settlement of *St. Johns West*.

ST. JOHNS WEST

St. Johns West was once a thriving hub of industrial activity on the Niagara Peninsula. During the early 1800's, the community established itself through the development of pioneer manufacturing and services.

Today, it is difficult to realize that this peaceful, rural area set in the picturesque *Short Hills* played a significant role in the industrialization of Upper Canada.

St. Johns was first settled by a native of Pennsylvania by the name of *Benjamin Canby* who arrived in the Niagara Peninsula in 1790. Following old Mohawk and Iroquois trails, he trekked inland from *Queen's Town* on the Niagara River and built a sawmill on one of the eastern branches of the Twelve Mile Creek in 1792, establishing the future community of *St. Johns*.

DE CEW FALLS AREA

Cuesta Tour
Last of 8 maps

Scale 1:25,000

0 Metres 500 1000



When Canby's widowed sister, Elizabeth married a Connecticut native by the name of *John Darling*, the trio petitioned the Executive Council for land. Benjamin Canby and John Darling were awarded Crown grants for four of the five township lots in Thorold and Pelham which were to comprise the unincorporated village of *St. Johns*.

Under the entrepreneurial drive of Canby and Darling, *St. Johns* grew to become a hub of pioneer industry boasting a sawmill, grist mill, brickyard, fulling mill, tannery, potashery, woollen mill and iron foundry.

Then in 1818 along came *William Hamilton Merritt*, who owned a mill on the Twelve Mile Creek farther downstream. Merritt's actions would spell an end to *St. Johns* industrial aspirations.

Seeking a remedy for the feeble flow of water to his mill, Merritt rode out to the Short Hills area where he borrowed a level from the proprietor of Beckett's Mills (Effingham) to conduct a survey on the possibility of drawing water from the Chippawa Creek or Welland River. His successful completion of the first Welland Canal resulted in *St. Johns* fall from industrial prominence to fulfil a quieter destiny.

Follow Hollow Road to Holland Road and turn left. Just to cause some confusion Holland Road becomes Rolland Road; however, the scenery compensates for



such minor inconvenience and adds to the charm of this historic region of Niagara.

At the intersection of Rolland Road and Effingham Road, turn right and travel north to intersect with Regional Road 69. The *Adam Hayes Inn* is located at this old crossroad. Turn right at Regional Road 69 and travel a short distance to De Cew Road. Turn right. The flumes of the *De Cew Falls Power Station* running almost vertically down the Escarpment can be seen to the left. This station was opened in 1898 and supplied power to Hamilton and other communities.

Continue on De Cew Road until reaching the *Morningstar Mill — Mountain Mills Museum*. Here at the site of De Cew Falls, the waters from Lake Moodie and Lake Gibson converge to flow over the Escarpment.

MOUNTAIN MILLS MUSEUM (Morningstar Mill)

This picture-perfect mill is located at the brink of De Cew Falls making it one of the most attractive spots in the tour.

This mill is one of the last of its kind in Ontario and provides an interesting insight into milling operations at the turn of the century. The property is owned by Ontario Hydro which undertook necessary repairs to the building prior to leasing it to the City of St. Catharines.

While this completes **Cuesta's** tour of the Niagara Region from the **Forty to the Twelve**, we urge you to discover more of the history of this scenic part of Ontario's Niagara Escarpment. ■

The Man Behind the Legend

Tom Thomson

Today his art is internationally recognized for its distinctive style but Tom Thomson himself, a contemporary of the *Group of Seven*, once expressed amazement that "anyone would pay good money for it." Yet he became one of the first truly Canadian painters to adapt the paint medium to his native landscape and, in doing so, bequeathed a lasting legacy: Never again would anyone familiar with his art view the rugged landscapes of Ontario's wilderness areas in quite the same way.

Thomson spent most of his formative years in the village of *Leith*, near the *City of Owen Sound*. The rolling countryside in this area of Grey County is dominated by the sheer limestone cliffs of the Niagara Escarpment which drop sharply into the blue waters of Georgian Bay. Given his boyhood surroundings, it is understandable that he would become acutely attuned to his environment. But what was remarkable, was his ability to translate these inner feelings so passionately onto canvas. Paintings such as *The Jack Pine*, *The West Wind*, and *Summer Shore, Georgian Bay* display his exceptional artistic sensitivity through the harmonious use of colour, line and perspective. And something much more — his canvases evoke a feeling for the land and express wonderment at the changing of the seasons.

Thomson started to paint seriously at the age of 35 — rather late in life by artists' standards. But within four years, he had patterned a dramatic style which would challenge traditional concepts of art. Many feel that his style would have continued to evolve and that his abrupt death at 39 occurred well before the apex of his career.

It wasn't until years after his death that he received international recognition and well-deserved acclamation within his own country. During his life, his exceptional work was relatively unknown, and only four large canvases were sold for \$200 or \$300. Characteristically depreciative of his work, Thomson was quite happy to receive \$10 to \$15 for one of his sketches. Some 300 sketches remained unsold at the time of his death in July 1917. *The West Wind*, one of his most famous canvases, remained unsold until it was purchased in 1926 for the *Art Gallery of Ontario*.

In 1922, a memorial exhibition featuring 44 of Thomson's paintings and sketches was held in Owen



Tom Thomson

Sound. While the total value of the display, at the time, was only \$6,000, it is estimated that the current value would be closer to \$10,000,000. According to Catharine Harrison, assistant director, of the *Tom Thomson Memorial Gallery and Museum of Fine Art* in Owen Sound, to assemble the same exhibition today and include Thomson's most famous works would be prohibitive due to insurance costs alone.

Although Thomson's own career was brief, his artistic concepts continued to break new ground through the work of friends and colleagues like Arthur Lismer, Fred Varley, J.E.H. MacDonald, A.Y. Jackson, Frank Johnston and Frank Carmichael. Together with Lawren Harris, A.J. Casson, Edwin Holgate and L.L. Fitzgerald they formed the *Group of Seven*: a group that would eventually polarize the artistic community with its distinctive style based on an interpretation of Thomson's pioneering efforts.

Tom Thomson was born on August 5, 1877 near *Claremont*, Ontario. Two months later, the family moved to *Rose Hill* farm near the village of *Leith*, near *Owen Sound*. He was one of ten children in the Thomson family, most of whom were either musically or artistically inclined. His father, John, sketched and at



PHOTOS COURTESY TOM THOMSON MEMORIAL GALLERY

least five of his siblings dabbled in art while an older brother, George, was also to become a professional artist.

As a child, Tom apparently didn't exhibit any outstanding artistic abilities other than drawing caricatures surreptitiously in hymn-books during church services. His brother, Ralph, later commented that Tom preferred singing or playing the mandolin to painting.

As a teenager, Thomson was taken out of school for one year due to a lung ailment. The doctor ordered him to spend as much time as possible outside which suited Tom perfectly. He had always enjoyed outdoor activities and he spent the next year exploring the Escarpment countryside around Leith. He would easily walk to Meaford and back, a distance of about 32 kilometres, on an errand for his mother.

At the age of 21, Thomson received a \$2,000 bequest from his grandfather, a part of which was used to buy an apprenticeship as a machinist with *William Kennedy and Sons* in Owen Sound. He stayed there for only eight months and was said to have left over a disagreement with the foreman.

During the next ten years, Thomson either studied or worked for various commercial art firms in Canada and the United States. By 1901, he had followed his two older brothers to Seattle where George had established the *Acme Business College*. There, he enrolled in a penmanship course after which he worked with two photo-engraving firms in the Seattle area. During this period, he became more interested in developing his artistic talents.

Thomson returned to Canada in 1904, supposedly suffering from a bout of unrequited love. Settling in Toronto, he continued to work for engraving firms for the next nine years. Here he received his only formal artistic training from William Cruikshank, a well-known artist, who taught at the *Central School of Art and Design*.

In 1907, Thomson joined the staff of *Grip Limited*, an engraving house in Toronto. *Grip* was a virtual hotbed of new and developing talent and, at one time or another, employed such budding artists as J.E.H. MacDonald, Fred Varley, Frank Carmichael, Arthur Lismer, William Broadhead and Frank Johnston. These lively young men would often organize weekend sketching trips to the Don and Humber Rivers and Lake Scugog in the Toronto area. Thomson also returned home once in a while and his works titled *Near Owen Sound* and *The Big Elm* are believed to have been completed during one of these visits.

Although his love for the land first flourished in the area of his childhood, his great passion was to be reserved for the wild and sombre beauty of Algonquin Park. Thomson took his first trip to Algonquin Park in May 1912 with a fellow *Grip* employee, Ben Jackson. He was immediately enthralled with the country he saw and organized a canoe trip through the Mississagi Forest Reserve that same summer. Thomson almost ignored his sketching on this trip, preferring to take photographs. Unfortunately, he lost all but two of the 150 rolls of film he had shot when his canoe capsized.

Returning to Toronto in the fall of 1912, Thomson joined the firm of *Rous and Mann Press*. About this time, he also met Dr. James M. MacCallum, a well-known Toronto ophthalmologist, who would become his close friend and patron, and a key force behind his further development as an artist.

Encouraged by MacCallum and his co-workers at *Rous and Mann*, who had seen his Algonquin sketches, Thomson was persuaded to render one onto canvas. His subsequent painting of a *A Northern Lake* represented his first major effort. Thomson was incredulous when it was immediately purchased by the Ontario government for \$250 in the spring of 1913.

According to Dr. MacCallum, Thomson blushed upon learning that his work had been purchased for such a sum and gruffly asked who had bought it. His friend,



PHOTOS FOR THIS ARTICLE COURTESY TOM THOMSON MEMORIAL GALLERY



The Big Elm — painted near the artist's home in Leith.

Arthur Lismer, said he cashed the cheque into one dollar bills, took them home, threw them into the air and 'danced a fandango'.

But not all of his work nor that of his contemporaries was received so eagerly. In December 1913, a *Toronto Star* critic, H.F. Gadsby, acidly wrote against "Advanced Atomizers who spray a tube of paint at a canvas and call it 'Sunshine in the Cowshed' or words to that effect ...the net result being more like a gargle or gob of porridge than a work of art." He dubbed them 'The Hot Mush School', an unfortunate title that Thomson and the others would later find hard to live down.

Disregarding such acerbic commentary, Thomson continued to paint and sketch, selling his work as required. Thomson was said to be quite extravagant with these occasional windfalls, purchasing silk shirts, good pipes and a silk tent. Once he even used his expensive oil paints to get just the right hue for painting his canoe. But his money was not only lavished on himself, he was generous by nature and always ready to lend a few dollars to a friend.

After receiving an amount of money from the sale of *Northern Lake*, Thomson took some time from work in May of 1913. He returned to Algonquin Park where he spent the summer and fall at Canoe Lake. There, he became friends with Mark Robinson, a ranger and Shannon Fraser, owner of Mowat Lodge where he often stayed.

Returning again to Toronto, he was persuaded to devote himself to full-time painting by Dr. MacCallum who agreed to pay all his *out-of-pocket* expenses. Thomson agreed and as soon as there was a hint of spring in the air he scurried back to the tranquillity of Canoe Lake. Dr. MacCallum said Thomson spent up to eight months of the year at Canoe Lake, sketching, hunting, fishing and sometimes working as a guide or

ranger. His winters were spent in Toronto, painting the most promising of his sketches on canvas.

During these sojourns in Algonquin Park, Thomson became very adept at handling a canoe and would often spend days on his own in the wilderness, becoming so proficient in the art of angling that he was able to tie his own flies. According to J.E.H. MacDonald, "Tom was never proud of his paintings but he was very cocky about his fishing."

By 1915, Dr. MacCallum and Lawren Harris had converted a toolshed in Toronto into an art studio for Thomson. He worked hard at achieving a 'back-woods' look. Guests would later remark that the shack resembled an Algonquin cabin rather than a studio in downtown Toronto. Canoe paddles and axes could be found lying in corners while trolling spools and lures festooned the walls.

Although others appreciated and encouraged his work, Thomson was his own harshest critic. He once threw his sketch box deep into the woods because he was frustrated and dissatisfied with his work. But he must have had second thoughts as he later enlisted the aid of his friend, A.Y. Jackson to help retrieve it. He also enjoyed regaling friends with the tale of leaving his sketches out in the woods to dry. Upon returning, he found them chewed and clawed by animals — Thomson remarked that they were excellent and impartial critics of art.

During the spring of 1917, he held an 'art show' at Mowat Lodge and invited each guest to choose a sketch for himself. This generous gesture was typical of Thomson. He once tried to give away the sketch of *The West Wind* to Mark Robinson but was persuaded instead to paint it on a larger canvas.

Thomson returned to Algonquin Park in the spring of 1917 as he had done for several years. This year, however, would be different in many ways.

(Continued on page 52)



Welland House Hotel

St. Catharines Spas



Springbank



Welland House Hotel

(Continued from page 13)

Upon his departure, the *St. Catharines Journal* wryly wrote, "the hon. gentleman left for home last night, after partaking of a copious draught of saline water, which it is hoped will free him of the bile with which he has been afflicted ever since the government refused to sanction a trip to Washington to negotiate the reciprocity treaty."

It was inevitable that hot on the heels of the political pundits, journalists would discover the spas.

In July 1866, a writer for the *New York Herald* visited *Stephenson House*. He reported the hotel had 150 guests of which "Americans predominate (and) appear to be on the very best footing with the Canadian residents." In addition, there was "a remarkable number of cripples," whose "crutches and walking sticks were the characteristics of the house." The correspondent continued, "A month or so of the celebrated mineral water, united with a Turkish bath now and again acts like a charm in driving away fell diseases in the shape of rheumatism, lumbago, stiff joints and all other advertised complaints. After partaking a quart of the crystal water of the spring early in the morning, it is recommended that the patient walk eight times around the house, which is just one-eighth of a mile in circumference, this is for the sake of essential air and exercise."

In 1869 another journalist from the *Cincinnati Enquirer* visited *Stephenson House*. He applauded the hotel's views, the *St. Catharines'* countryside, and the lovely drives available to guests. He lauded the springs as having "a most invigorating effect in strengthening a constitution which has become debilitated by over mental exertion or by exposure to a drying climate."

The resort owners worked hard to attract and maintain good reviews. They strived for perfection and stressed convenience. Fortunately, their most vital commodity, mineral water, was found in abundance, thanks to the neighbouring Escarpment. However, since these pockets of mineralized water were located far below the surface, 200-metre artesian wells were drilled into the porous limestone to obtain sufficient water for the resorts.

Stephenson House pumped its water by steam engine into reservoirs on the summit of a hill near the hotel. In the reservoir, the water was carefully heated and distributed by pipes to the 'cabinets' in the bath-house. It's possible, the water used by *Stephenson House* and *Springbank* may have come from the same underground supply, as both artesian wells were only a quarter mile apart.

In 1864, *Stephenson*, the consummate showman, jockeying to keep ahead of the competition, initiated a new concept at his hotel by introducing a year-round operation. A comfortable bathing apartment was built in the first storey and the services of 'efficient bath attendants and rubbers were secured'. Extensive verandahs and long, well-lit halls provided sufficient exercise areas in cold or stormy weather. But in spite of *Stephenson's* know-how, the popularity of *St. Catharines* as a resort area began to wane during the 1860's and gradually slipped into irreversible decline.

The *American Civil War* was a key factor in the decline and abandonment of the spas. Initially, *St. Catharines* was a haven for Confederate refugees and great numbers of northerners who fled to Canada to avoid the draft. On the other hand, the war eventually impoverished wealthy southern families, the major patrons of *St. Catharines'* spas.

This development, coupled with *Stephenson's* death in a carriage accident in 1867, plunged *Stephenson House* into a crisis. However, the hotel was able to rally temporarily and managed to cling to its popularity into the 1880's.

For the next ten to fifteen years, the spas continued to hold their own against the odds; but by the late 1880's, the resorts had slumped into a hopeless state of decline and the end of an era was in sight.

Wealthy American tourists discovered domestic watering holes such as *Sulphur Springs* and *Saratoga Springs* and the sea resort was rediscovered. Within a few years such New England towns as *Bar Harbour* and *Newport* became the 'in' places. People who once frequented the spas of Ontario now headed east to the American seaboard.

In addition, *St. Catharines'* hotels gradually overpriced themselves. A great deal of importance had been placed on the advertisement 'completely refurbished'. Thus, hotels were constantly remodelling and buying new furniture. This expensive practice was reflected in the prices. The combination of all these factors signalled a change in status for two of the three hotels.

On September 27, 1888, the founding meeting of *Ridley College* was held. The trustees were presented with an exhaustive report on *Springbank* by Rev. W.J. Armitage, minister of *St. Thomas' Church*. Although the hotel's property was valued \$70,000, it could be had for a mere \$15,000. The school snapped up the bargain and in 1889, *Springbank* became the first home of *Bishop Ridley College*.

In 1898, *Stephenson House* was purchased by *Demill Ladies College*, whose buildings in *Oshawa* had been destroyed by fire. In August, 1899 the *St. Catharines Journal* reported, somewhat nostalgically, that the mineral spring on the school's property was known to doctors in London and Paris as the "best specimen of Ido-Bromated Saline Waters". The paper also noted that the students "have greatly benefitted by their (the water's) use". The *Demill Ladies College* is known to have occupied the *Stephenson House* between 1899 and 1903.

Some people, however, just won't roll over and die in the face of new trends. *Welland House*, under the ownership of Alec and Jack Malcolmson, battled to regain its former grandeur. The Malcolmson brothers improved the grounds immensely, adding two storeys to the hotel and later a third. They acquired a knitting factory and a terrace of brick houses in order to expand, dug a new well and built a two-storey bath house connecting it to the main building by an enclosed second-floor arcade.

Welland House was to be the only resort hotel to maintain its status into the twentieth century.

Even the educational uses of the former spas were not permanent. Disaster struck *Ridley College (Springbank)* October 25, 1903, when fire swept through the old structure destroying all but one building, but injuring none. Only the hotel's laundry, converted into a gymnasium, survived. It still stands today, renovated into a terrace of three houses.

After the fire, trustees were forced to find a new location to resume classes. Fortunately, *Demill Ladies College* had recently vacated *Stephenson House* and in November, *Ridley College* took up residence. The

WELLAND HOUSE,

THE SAFEST HOTEL



ONTARIO STREET,
Near St. Paul Street,
ST. CATHARINES, ONTARIO.

FIRST-CLASS ACCOMMODATIONS.

One of the Best Furnished Hotels in the Dominion.

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move, however, was only temporary. In January, 1905, the College moved to newly constructed buildings on the west bank of Twelve Mile Creek where it's currently situated.

A few years later, in 1916, the empty *Stephenson House* was tabled for discussion at a *St. Catharines'* council meeting. Soon afterwards, the *Puccini Macaroni Factory* started production in the old resort; however, a fire destroyed the factory around 1930. The shell of the old *Stephenson House* stood vacant until 1931 when it was torn down.

In the late 1920's the struggling *Welland House*, still clinging to its tattered reputation as a haven for invalids, was bought by the Vassar brothers. It underwent complete remodelling and modernization in 1930. Scientific equipment was purchased for use with the mineral baths and a physiotherapist was hired. But *Welland House* could not hold out against the trends and in 1941 closed as a spa.

The last survivor of the 'spa era', *Welland House* is currently the Welland House Hotel. Salt springs still surface in the basement, but instead of being hailed as a miraculous cure for a variety of ailments, the water is pumped into sewers to prevent flooding. The *Welland* currently operates as a hotel in downtown *St. Catharines* with few traces of its former grandeur.

The 'magic waters' of the Algonquin Indians are still there, but the days when *St. Catharines'* grand old hotels rivalled Europe's finest have passed forever.

Cuesta wishes to acknowledge the assistance of **St. Catharines Historical Museum** in providing research material and photographs for this article. ■

(Continued from page 24)

and fill jugs of water and take them away by the trunk-load," says Reed. "Once they try Cave Springs water, most only use tap water for their laundry. They never go back to drinking or cooking with it."

The springs flow freely from a rock crevice located approximately 30 metres from the summit and 46 metres from the base of the Escarpment. The crystal water flows down a pipe into a reservoir near the house from one spring, while the second spring is used mainly for irrigation.

Reed maintains that the water comes from an underground lake or reservoir deep within the Escarpment which seems to have been left from another age when the area was submerged under a warm, shallow sea some 450 million years ago. Occasionally, small, pale, Gollum-like frogs are discovered in Reed's waterline, proof she ascertains of her theory. However, when examined by Robert Lewes, a biologist with the *Ministry of Natural Resources*, they proved to be garden-variety *Leopard* frogs lacking any subterranean adaptations or peculiarities.

The water, however, is special and no one contests that fact.

It contains small amounts of magnesium sulfate (*epsom salts*) and is slightly alkaline. Reed claims that the water leaves neither rust nor lime stains, nor does it leave a residue in her pots as did Merritt's water from the Twelve Mile Creek.

While Reed is unabashedly enthusiastic about the beneficial properties of *Cave Springs* water, *Cave Springs Farm* offers something more.

Cave Springs is steeped in lore, legend, mystery and tranquility.

Cave Springs was the ancient home of peaceful Neutral Indians and traces of their spirit carvings, long since vandalized, are still evident on the Escarpment face. The property also boasts an ice-cave which once enabled the year-round preservation of game; unfortunately, a former owner of the property, in an effort to enlarge and commercialize the cave, almost completely ruined it.

Yet, there is nothing of the sinister evident in this mystical property. *Cave Springs* abounds with the stuff from which dreams are made: wise owls, lost caves and lost treasure.

An aura of permanence and peace envelops the area which Margaret Reed maintains first attracted her to *Cave Springs* in 1970. *Cave Springs* has given her a whole new perspective on life and a philosophical acceptance of what life brings. "Cave Springs attracts the right kind of people: those who will nurture the land and give back more than they take," noted Reed. "Everything at *Cave Springs*, including the water, is perfectly balanced as nature intended, and man has tried too long to destroy that balance in the name of so-called improvement."

That certainly won't happen to *Cave Springs* if Margaret Reed has anything to do with it.

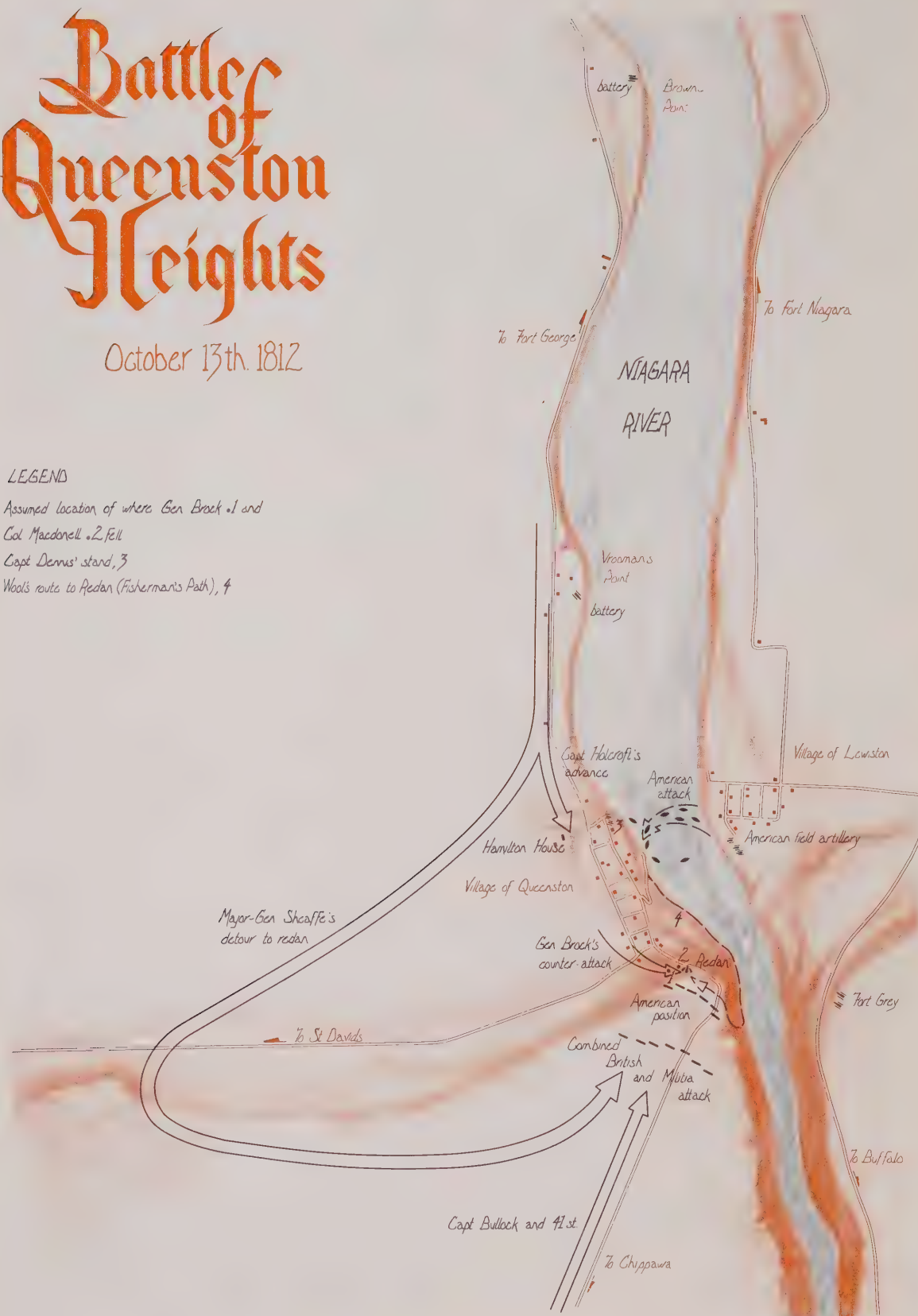
Note: For readers interested in discovering more about *Cave Springs Farm*, Cuesta recommends a book by William T. Rannie entitled **Cave Springs Farm — in lore and legend.** ■

Battle of Queenston Heights

October 13th. 1812

LEGEND

- Assumed location of where Gen Brock #1 and Col Macdonnell #2 fell
- Capt Dennis' stand, 3
- Wool's route to Redan (Fisherman's Path), 4



(Continued from page 18)

Brock accompanied by his aides Glegg and Macdonell and 12 men from the redan retreated to Hamilton House at the far end of the village to assess the situation. Once behind the garden walls, Brock dispatched messages to Major-General Roger Sheaffe at Fort George and to the garrison at Chippawa requesting that all available reinforcements march to Queenston as soon as possible.

But Brock decided not to wait for their arrival. He feared that if the invaders consolidated their positions on the heights and in the village, all would be lost. Brock firmly believed that whoever controlled the heights, controlled Upper Canada — if the heights were lost, the province would be lost.

Brock, the consummate soldier, prepared for one final charge. Rallying 200 men of the 49th and the York militia, Brock led them in the direction of the redan. Behind a stone wall halfway up the Escarpment slopes, he dismounted saying, *“take a breath boys — you will need it in a few moments”*.

Here Brock split his force sending 70 men under the command of Captain John Williams in a flanking manoeuvre to the left of Wool's position on the redan.

Wool countered sending 150 men to meet this advance, but after a brief exchange of fire, the Americans fell back in confusion.

Seizing this opportunity, Brock vaulted the stone wall and led his men up the slope intent on retaking the redan. The men scrambled up the slope trying to keep their footing on the wet October leaves beneath. An aide, fearing for Brock's life, implored him to stay back. Brock's reputed reply was *“I must remain at the head of these men, duty and desire compel me. Should I fall, there are others not less competent.”*

Brock continued to lead the charge. The flank companies of the York militia, uniformed in scarlet, advanced with such steadiness, that the Americans defending the redan assumed they were being attacked by four, rather than two, companies of the 49th. The Americans fell back in panic, despite having been reinforced with close to 500 men. An American, possibly an officer, waved a white flag but Wool snatched it down and trampled it to the ground — there would be no surrender yet. Imploring his troops to remember Detroit, Wool rallied them against the advancing British.

Seeing his flank companies of York militia lagging behind, Brock was purported to have shouted to Macdonell to *“push on the brave York volunteers”*. Just then a bullet nicked his wrist, but without pause he continued to encourage his men.

Brock, resplendent in his scarlet uniform and plumed hat, was a conspicuous and gallant figure. Positioned several yards in front of his men waving his sword around in a display of enthusiasm, it was obvious to all, including the enemy, that he was the commanding officer.

A fifteen-year-old American sharpshooter by the name of Wilklow, stepped out from behind a tree and drew a bead on the general with a long-barrelled border rifle. More than one man of the 49th observed this and fired hastily in the direction of the sharpshooter hoping to pick him off.

Brock was less than 50 yards from Wilklow when the shot rang out. The bullet struck Brock's right side and passed through his body exiting on the left. Fatally wounded, Brock dropped to the ground.

Several accounts of Brock's death report that he lived long enough to ask that his death be concealed from his troops and that he be remembered to his sister. However, it is generally accepted that the type of wound Brock received would preclude any parting statements.

A York volunteer, George Jarvis, has left this account of Brock's death:

“On arriving at the foot of the mountain, where the road diverges to St. David's, General Brock dismounted and, waving his sword, climbed over a high stone wall, followed by his troops. Placing himself at the head of the Light Company of the 49th, he led the way up the mountain, at double quick time, in the very teeth of a sharp fire from the enemy's rifle men, and ere long he was singled out by one of them, who coming forward, took deliberate aim and fired. Several of the men noticed the action and fired, but too late, and our gallant General fell on his left side within a few feet of where I stood. Running up to him, I enquired, ‘Are you hurt much, Sir?’ He placed his hand on his breast, but made no reply and sank down”.

Brock's body was carried from the battle by men of the 49th to a thorn tree in the village. Later, the body would be moved to a nearby house. Brock had died in his 43rd year, just before 8:00 a.m.

Some British forces retreated behind the stone wall in a state of confusion and despair over the death of their general. Lieutenant-Colonel John Macdonell, a member of the Legislative Assembly and acting Attorney-General of the province, regrouped the men and together with Williams' men determined on another frontal assault.

Macdonell, the only mounted officer, led the attack. Seventy volunteers followed him up the heights to join the rest of the 49th. With shouts of *“revenge the general”*, the British swept forward.

At the onset of the attack, Macdonell's horse was hit. As the horse reared and plunged, another shot struck Macdonell in the back. Both horse and rider fell, mortally wounded. Macdonell, still alive, crawled in agony towards his closest friend, Lieutenant Archibald McLean of the York volunteers, calling *“help me”*. McLean was hit in the thigh as he struggled unsuccessfully to reach Macdonell.

Williams, although horribly wounded by a bullet that half scalped him, would leave the field alive. The battlefield resounded with the dying cries of men and horses which broke the early morning stillness.

Captain James Dennis, although wounded and bloodied from the battle, assumed command of the British forces. Retreat was sounded, and the British retired to the two remaining defensible positions: the village and a position in front of the battery at Vrooman's Point.

This action left the Americans in uncontested control of the heights and the landing in the village.

The troops at Lewiston, believing the victory at the redan indicated that the battle had been won, eagerly pressed forward to cross the river.

For the next few hours, the Americans were allowed to secure their position unhindered. Engineers were sent over to build earth works and to lay out a fortified camp on the heights. Major-General Stephen Van Rensselaer crossed over to Queenston and expressed general satisfaction at the turn of events. Assured that the fighting was over, Van Rensselaer returned to Lewiston leaving Brigadier-General William Wadsworth of the

Upper New York State militia in charge. Eventually, through circuitous means, command would be passed to Lieutenant-Colonel Winfield Scott of the 2nd U.S. artillery.

During this hiatus in the battle, the British had only 200 men fit for further action while the Americans had landed more than 800 on the heights. Unfortunately, many of the Americans began to desert their positions either jumping into returning boats or slipping down into the village to plunder homes.

As for the small group of defenders trapped in Queenston, help from Fort George and Chippawa was coming in double-quick time.

The Americans had enough boats to cross the remaining troops by 10 o'clock as the river crossing was virtually unopposed. But, for some reason, they did not take advantage of this opportunity.

It may have been due to the tales carried back by wounded Americans of the terrifying "green tigers" as the 49th were called because of the green facings on their scarlet jackets or it may have been that the militia's eagerness was chilled as the unmistakable war-cries of Mohawk warriors led by John Norton and Joseph Brant pierced the air. Whatever the reason, they did not make effective use of this time to consolidate their position.

The first British reinforcements to arrive consisted of several companies of the 41st and militia companies, and a detachment of Royal Artillery with two field guns under Captain Holcroft. Stragglers from the field had reported that Americans were still landing and moving onto the heights. Holcroft with the aid of Captain Archibald Hamilton dashed across a ravine and through the village until he reached Hamilton House where he took up a position overlooking the landing. A company of the 41st joined them and set up continuous volleys. The precision of their fire together with the accuracy of their field guns effectively barred further crossing by Americans.

Major-General Roger Hale Sheaffe arrived at Queenston about 2:00 p.m. with 324 men of the 41st regiment and about 300 militia. Brock's second-in-command had heard about Brock's death during his advance from Fort George and was fully aware of the gravity of the situation.

A more cautious commander than Brock, Sheaffe rejected a frontal uphill attack and decided upon a time-consuming flanking attack. Word was sent to the small party of Indians, who had been harassing the Americans for some time, to attack the pickets Scott had positioned on his left flank.

Silently, the Indians moved through the woods and then with a wild war-whoop fired a volley, surprising the American outposts. Faced with death at the hands of the Mohawks, many of the militia ran to the cliffs where some jumped to their deaths, while others clung to tree roots and bushes in an effort to escape the scalping knife.

Complete panic swept through the heights and over to Lewiston, where the shrill Indian cries sent chills down the spines of the militia. The Mohawks had succeeded in terrifying the enemy. The Americans, almost to a man, refused to cross the river.

General Van Rensselaer was helpless. He had promised Scott reinforcements and ammunition, neither of which he could supply. A message was sent to

Brigadier-General Wadsworth: "*I have passed through my camp; not a regiment, not a company is willing to join you. Save yourselves by a retreat if you can. Boats will be sent to receive you*".

But even this promise was hollow as the terrified boatmen refused to budge, even to evacuate the wounded.

Noting the panic and disorder in the American ranks, Sheaffe proceeded to implement his plan of attack.

Leaving two small guns and thirty men from the light infantry to hold the village, Sheaffe led the remaining troops on a wide circular route around the American flanks, ascending the heights from the rear. This detour took him almost two miles out of Queenston. Near St. David's Road, he halted to await the expected reinforcements from Chippawa while the Indians continued their harassment of enemy patrols.

By taking this route, Sheaffe escaped the incessant fire from Lewiston, avoided the steep ascent in the face of the enemy, and placed his troops on equal footing with the Americans on open level ground.

Captain Richard Bullock with 150 men of the 41st arrived from Chippawa and joined Sheaffe's right flank.

At the time of the attack the British forces consisted of: Holcroft's detachment of Royal Artillery with two six-pounders; five companies of the 41st regiment; remnants of the flank companies of the 49th and the three York militia companies engaged in the morning; Swayzes' provincial artillery with two three-pounders under Lieutenant Crowther; Captain James Crook's and Captain John McEwen's companies of the 1st Lincoln; Captain William Crook's and Nelles' companies of the 4th Lincoln; Applegarth's, Hatt's and Durand's companies of the 5th Lincoln; Merritt's provincial dragoons; Captain Robert Runchey's platoon of freed slaves; and 100 men of the Indian confederacy.

The entire British force amounted to less than 1,000, of whom 600 were regulars. In numbers the Americans were about equal, but their troops were no match for disciplined forces they would shortly engage.

Sheaffe positioned his troops in a semi-circular formation facing the enemy. The Americans were pinned with their backs to the river, the Escarpment cliff at their left and Holcroft's guns at their right — there was no escape.

Sheaffe ordered the advance of two guns and the light infantry company of the 41st. Advancing together with 50 militiamen and the same number of Six Nations Indians, the company fired a single volley and then charged with fixed bayonets.

The Americans fell back in an utter state of confusion exposing their flank.

Sheaffe immediately ordered a general advance. The British force raised a wild Indian war-whoop and charged furiously. And in this decisive battle for a country, the men of many nations charged together. On the Mohawk flank, Runchey's black platoon of freed slaves who had volunteered at Newark, charged with grim determination.

The British line gradually flattened out assuming the shape of a crescent as the centre advanced. This manoeuvre overlapped the American flanks cutting off all possible retreat.

The result was complete disorder and confusion in the American ranks. Many Americans ran to the cliff edge and hurled themselves into the water. Others scrambled down the cliff and took refuge along the shoreline where many tried to swim to the Lewiston shore, drowning in the attempt.

Lieutenant-Colonel Winfield Scott together with Brigadier-General Wadsworth and Colonel Chrystie made their way down to the shore in hopes of finding Van Rensselaer's evacuation boats, but they were 200 yards away on the opposite shore.

Trapped with their backs to the river and no hope of rescue, Scott tied a white cravat to his sword and waved it in unconditional surrender. The Mohawks, however, enraged by the deaths of two of their chiefs were in no mood to be called off by military niceties and continued fighting.

Sheaffe became so indignant at this breach of conduct that he threw his hat and sword to the ground and threatened to resign his command if they did not cease the slaughter.

Scott, who had been pounced on by Brant and Norton, was rescued by John Beverley Robinson and Samuel Jarvis and taken safely to Sheaffe.

Once the Mohawks were quietened, Sheaffe accepted the American surrender. More than 1,000 officers and men laid down their arms. Although casualty figures vary from 60 to 500 according to sources, it is probable that the Americans suffered at least 250 casualties including Solomon Van Rensselaer, and John Lovett who, placed in charge of the Fort Grey battery, was rendered totally deaf.

The British losses were, in comparison, light. British military records list 14 killed and 77 wounded, although these figures would not include Indian and militia casualties.

The task of tending the wounded fell to the women of Queenston, the most famous of whom was Laura Secord. Both the American and British wounded were taken to Newark in wagons and boats. St. Mark's Church, Government House and the Indian council house were converted into hospitals. The next morning the dead left lying on the ground were covered with a light snow which had fallen during the night.

The British victory, so necessary for the safety of the nation, was bittersweet. The battle which had raged for more than 12 hours had extracted its price: The only man considered capable of halting the coming tide of American invasion was dead.

(Continued from page 4)

During the summer season, *Equinox Adventures* bases its operations at *Grande Calumet Island* offering a variety of whitewater thrills on the majestic Ottawa River.

Participants can choose from whitewater rafting in high-technology hypalon rafts, or a recently purchased Grand Canyon River Dory. The rigid dory, styled after North Sea fishing dories, was designed originally for the Powell expedition down the Grand Canyon in 1860. Riding high in the water and challenging McCoy's Chute, Black Chute and the buffeting waves of the Colosseum, this western-style raft affords the 'thrill of a lifetime'.

One or two-day excursions are available from June 17 through Labour Day. Prices vary depending on whether or not meals are included; but generally range from \$50-55 for a one-day trip, and \$105-135 for the two-day excursion with slightly lower prices available during weekdays.

For the really adventurous, *Equinox* designed the *Gold Rush Trail Expedition* offered during the 1983 season. Participants in this twenty-six day adventure set out from Whitehorse and hike the legendary *Chilcoot Pass* eventually paddling down the mighty Yukon. A professional guide, equipment and food were included in the \$1,300 price tag. Unfortunately, this particular adventure has not been included in the '84 roster.

But those with whitewater fever can join the *Dumoine Whitewater Canoe Trip* and journey one of Canada's most scenic and consistent whitewater rivers. Trips are scheduled for July 25-31 and August 22-28 at a cost of approximately \$375 which includes whitewater canoes, meals and the flight from base camp.

Rounding off these adventurous courses and consistent with *Equinox Adventures'* safety policy, two high-quality courses are offered in *Wilderness Rescue* and *High Level Rescue*. The *Red Cross Wilderness First Aid* provides a certification course for those involved in outdoor pursuits and the *High Level Rescue Course* focuses on advanced technical rescue techniques for rock climbers.

So, if you have ever yearned to shoot the rapids, climb a mountain, or feel secure in a wilderness setting, *Equinox Adventures* offers you the opportunity to learn under the guidance and tutelage of experts.

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June 15 to September 3
Box 161
Grande Calumet Island
Quebec
J0X 1J0



(Continued from page 31)



PHOTO: P. SÖPLER

A runner must decide on the best route between control points — and live with his decision.

Once all the basic skills have been mastered, runners can indulge in orienteering with a twist. While *cross-country* — checking in at all controls in a set order with the fastest time winning the race — is the most popular, orienteers keep inventing new variations.

In the *score event*, for instance, each control point is assigned a numerical value with the farthest away being the highest, a time limit is set and the orienteer who accumulates the most points wins. *Relays* are yet another variation, and are considered by sport aficionados to be the most exciting. Although the majority of orienteering events occur during daylight hours, some events are held at night in open and lightly wooded areas with well-defined boundaries.

And orienteering doesn't go into hibernation when the snow flies: it adapts beautifully to winter. *Ski orienteering* is as popular with cross-country ski enthusiasts as it is with die-hard orienteers. Any wooded area with a complex network of groomed ski trails is ideal for this winter adaptation of orienteering.

Regardless of season, the serious orienteer trains and competes as vigorously as the most dedicated long-distance runner. Many orienteers are known to train 50 to 60 miles a week improving their physical conditioning. And training trails are as close as the nearest Escarpment area.

Several Escarpment areas have been mapped for orienteering: the five to six square kilometres of the Dundas Valley are representative of the Escarpment natural and protection designations; while the nine-kilometre King's Forest area in Hamilton provides a more urban setting; and the Crawford Lake area near

Campbellville offers open hilly fields. One of the all-time favourite areas for orienteering is Terra Cotta Conservation Area. Escarpment areas proposed for future orienteering mapping are: Mono Cliffs, and Hockley Hills.

There can be no doubt that orienteering is popular with orienteers but Budge believes that the sport has yet to reach its full potential in popularity. That's because orienteering appeals to families; it doesn't require expensive equipment; and anyone can participate in it.

The beginning orienteer need not purchase specialized equipment — a tracksuit and ordinary running or light walking shoes will suffice. Elite orienteers can, of course, purchase more sophisticated clothing. They usually sport a nylon suit which breathes and dries quickly and special running shoes which may cost \$60.

But for the novice the initial cash outlay is minimal.

To be perfectly honest, **Cuesta** admits that orienteering does not appeal to everyone.

People who orienteer not only enjoy being outdoors, they don't mind getting messy. A little mud, a few burrs, minor scratches and bruises coupled with a good soaking from rain, stream or swamp just add to the adventure of wilderness running — and keeps them coming back for more. Orienteering is definitely not a debutante's delight but for the adventurous it's a novel and exciting challenge.

If you are one of the adventurous, the basic family fee for club membership is approximately \$15. Local club membership automatically makes you a member of *Orienteering Ontario* and the *Canadian Orienteering Federation*. Members receive the quarterly publication of *Orienteering Ontario* and six issues of the national magazine. Each publication advises of upcoming meets and provides entry forms.

If you want to participate in this outdoor sport either to improve or maintain physical fitness or simply to enjoy nature, the following lists some of the Escarpment area orienteering clubs:

Niagara 'O' Club
Box 316
Vineland, Ontario
L0R 2C0

Hamilton King's Foresters
52 Price Avenue
Hamilton, Ontario
L9C 1K3

Credit Valley Orienteers
2001 Bonnymede Drive
Apartment 167
Mississauga, Ontario
L5J 4H8

For further information on a club in your area contact:

Orienteering Ontario
Ontario Sports Administrative Centre
1220 Sheppard Avenue East
Willowdale, Ontario
M2K 2X1
Telephone: (416) 495-4160

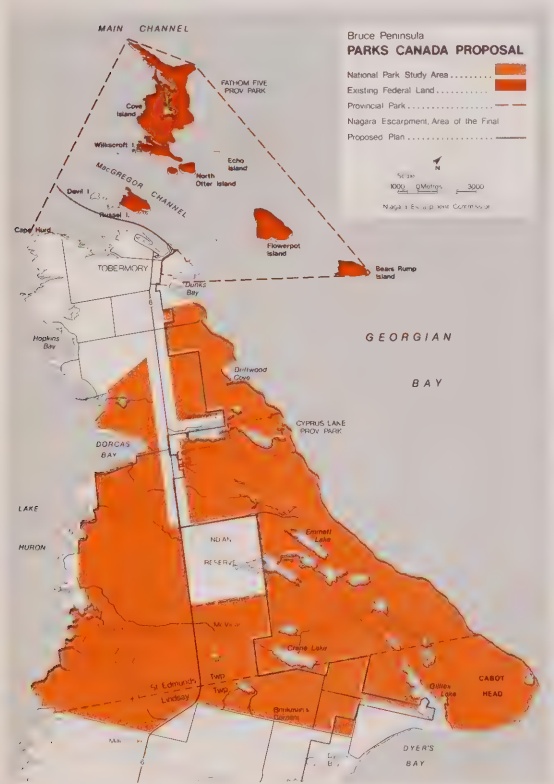
Update on Proposed Bruce National Park

Municipal elections in the fall of 1982 saw a change in Reeve and Council of Lindsay Township. Reeve Milt McIver and his council have reserved judgement on the proposal at this time. After receiving the federal response to the conditions outlined by the previous Lindsay and St. Edmund's councils in their conditional recommendation of support, and the results of a Parks Canada socio-economic study of the proposal, Reeve McIver and his council will decide their position on the proposal.

As a matter of Parks Canada policy a new national park proposal includes a socio-economic study on the impact of park establishment. Such a study on the Bruce proposal is expected to be well under way by spring of 1984. This study will also satisfy an earlier request by Lindsay Council for such an assessment.

Federal-Provincial discussions are currently in progress on various aspects of the proposal. Should agreement to proceed be reached, public consultation on various aspects of the proposal will be undertaken with affected landowners and the general public.

For further information concerning the national park proposal please contact Bob Day, Superintendent, Georgian Bay Islands National Park, P.O. Box 189, Tobermory, Ontario, N0H 2R0, Telephone (519) 596-2233.



(Continued from page 29)

That is until 1955, when Orrie Vail, a Tobermory fisherman, found the remains of a ship in a small cove off Russel Island. Vail was sure that his find was the long-lost **Griffon**. Until his death Vail, firmly believing that he had discovered the legendary **Griffon**, sought irrefutable proof of his theory.

Eventually, the Ministry of Natural Resources acquired all of Mr. Vail's artifacts and undertook an extensive two-season archaeological project. At the same time, a student in nautical archaeology, Paul Hundley, prepared a painstaking reconstruction of the Griffon Cove wreck.

All of Orrie Vail's collected material was carefully assessed during this detailed survey and additional timbers and artifacts from the vessel were examined. An assessment of the artifacts and datable material such as pottery suggested that the wreck was mid-nineteenth century and not the much earlier **Griffon**.

"It's too bad really," said McClellan, "no one would have wanted to see the **Griffon** more than myself."

But with an estimated 10,000 wrecks known in the Great Lakes, most of which have not been found, and at least an additional 50 within an 80-kilometre radius of Tobermory, the **Griffon** like the **Hamilton** and **Scourge** (see Cuesta 1981) may yet be discovered.

And who is to say, that she may not be found in the storm-tossed channels off Tobermory. ■

Legend for Mapping

Fathom Five Provincial Park, Ontario's only underwater park offers a total of nineteen dive sites catering to all levels of diving experience and interest. There are five dive sites located within the harbour areas. And as many of these wrecks are frequented by sight-seeing boats, extreme care should be taken at all times. The use of a towed float with a dive flag is recommended.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. Sweepstakes: | schooner |
| Built: | Wellington Square (Burlington), Ontario, 1867 |
| Length: | 36 metres |
| Depth: | 7 metres |

Of the harbour wrecks, the schooner **Sweepstakes** is the most popular. The schooner was abandoned in Big Tub and sank in seven metres of water in June, 1896. The site is easily accessible by water in all weather conditions and is recommended for all levels of diving experience.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2. City of Grand Rapids: | steamer |
| Built: | Grand Haven, Michigan, 1879 |
| Length: | 37 metres |
| Depth: | 5 metres |

The **City of Grand Rapids** plied the coastal waters of the Bruce Peninsula between Owen Sound and Manitoulin Island providing vital passenger and cargo transportation at the turn of the century. While moored in Little Tub, the **City of Grand Rapids** was discovered ablaze. The tug **Clucas** towed the steamer towards open water until forced to cut the **Grand Rapids** loose. The steamer later drifted into Big Tub where she burned and sank. The rudder and propeller of this wreck are displayed at the **Tobermory and St. Edmunds Township Museum**. This is an excellent site for all levels of diving experience.

3. **Big Tub Lighthouse**

Although definitely not a wreck, this site offers interesting features.

Depth: 23 metres

Limited parking is available at this access point. A good location, Fathom Five officials suggest, for check-out dives.

4. **The Anchor**

A large iron anchor from an unknown vessel.

Depth: 21 metres

Access by boat or by swimming from the 'gap' access area.

5. **The Tugs**

Wreckage of four small steam tugs: **The John and Alex, Robert K, Bob Foote, and Alice G.** are located in this area.

Depth: to 13 metres

A good site for all levels of diving experience.

6. **Cascaden:** schooner
Built: Southampton, Ontario, 1866
Length: unknown
Depth: 6 metres

The schooner **Cascaden** foundered in October, 1871. The wreckage is badly broken up and scattered over a wide area. Not a popular site for group dives.

7. **China:** schooner
Built: Port Robinson, Ontario 1863
Length: 42 metres
Depth: 3 metres

The **China**, a working schooner, was wrecked on the *China Reef* during a raging snowstorm in November, 1883. After twenty years of transporting coal, grain and lumber throughout the Great Lakes, the **China** foundered during an attempt to negotiate the Cape Hurd Channel — one of the most dangerous passages into Georgian Bay.

Today, the wreckage is badly broken up with debris spread throughout the shallows between China Cove and Wreck Point.

8. **John Walters:** schooner
Built: Kingston, Ontario, 1852
Length: 33 metres
Depth: 5 metres

The wreck of the **John Walters** lies at the south-west tip of Russel Island. This schooner, built by George Thurston builder of the **Arabia**, was launched as the **Sarah Bond**. However, when the vessel was sold in 1874 and partially rebuilt, it was re-named the **John Walters**. The lady must not have been partial to the new masculine name, as the **John Walters** met an ill fate during a late autumn storm (circa 1899).

This is an excellent, sheltered site for snorklers and novice divers as it provides a lot to see and touch in relatively shallow water.

9. **W.L. Wetmore:** steamer
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1871
Length: 65 metres
Depth: 10 metres

On November 28, 1901 the steamer **W.L. Wetmore** with the schooners **Brunette** and **James C. King** in tow succumbed to wild winter seas off the western tip of Russel Island. All vessels were stranded on Russel Reef forcing the crew of the **Wetmore** to abandon ship and fight their way through heavy seas in lifeboats to Tobermory. Salvage tugs were able to save the **Brunette**, but both the **Wetmore** and the **King** broke up and sank.

In addition to a large amount of timber wreckage, the **Wetmore's** machinery including a boiler, anchor chain, and ironwork is still intact. This site is particularly popular as surrounding the wreckage is an area of geological interest. On the lake bed, glacial striae, long scratches gouged into rock surfaces by the movement of glacial ice, are evident.

10. **James C. King:** schooner/barge
Built: East Saginaw, Michigan, 1867
Length: 53 metres
Depth: 7 to 30 metres

James C. King lies on the steep incline off Russel Island, the bow in seven metres, the stern in thirty metres. This site is recommended for advanced levels of experience and not for novices or trainees.

11. **Newaygo:** steamer
Built: Marine City, Michigan, 1890
Length: 60 metres
Depth: 8 metres

The steamer barge **Newaygo** with the schooner **Checotah** in tow was wrecked in MacGregor Channel during a gale on November 17, 1903. A rescue tug from Tobermory managed to bring the **Checotah** and the crews of both vessels into harbour. The relatively new **Newaygo** was the object of several salvage attempts; however, by the spring of 1904, she disappeared beneath the waters of MacGregor Channel.

Although the wreckage is widely scattered, a substantial portion lies flat on the bottom of the channel. This is considered to be an appropriate site for all levels of diving experience.

12. **Philo Scoville:** schooner
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1863
Length: 43 metres
Depth: 7 to 30 metres

The schooner **Philo Scoville**, one of the few Fathom Five wrecks to have claimed a life, foundered on the north shore of Russel Island on October 6, 1889. The **Scoville's** captain, John O'Grady was crushed between the stricken vessel and the rocks of Russel Island. A rescue tug removed the crew together with O'Grady's body and returned to Owen Sound.

The **Scoville's** bow can be found lying in the deeper waters of this dive site and its anchors are located some 30 metres east of the main wreckage.

This site is recommended for advanced levels of diving experience.

13. **Charles P. Minch:** schooner
Built: Vermillion, Ohio, 1867
Length: 47 metres
Depth: 6 to 16 metres

The three-masted schooner, **Charles P. Minch**, laden with timber, lay at anchor between Echo and Cove Islands, sheltering from a heavy gale on Lake Huron. A sudden shift in wind trapped the **Minch** in shallow water and forced her aground at Tecumseh Cove, Cove Island. Under the direction of Captain William Kaufman, the six-man crew secured a line and struggled to the inhospitable shore of Cove Island. Within a few hours, the **Minch** broke up and slipped into the shallow waters of Tecumseh Cove. Today, the wreckage is spread over the cove, with main portions close to shore. This is an excellent site for all levels of experience.

14. **Arabia:** barque
Built: Kingston, Ontario, 1853
Length: 40 metres
Depth: 39 metres

On October 5, 1884, the barque **Arabia** heading for Midland at the head of Georgian Bay, foundered off Echo Island ending a long career as both a laker and ocean-going merchant vessel. Her exhausted crew abandoned ship after hours of pumping water from the leaking hold had proven futile.

The **Arabia** with bowsprit, windlass, anchors and chain intact lies in 39 metres of water. The masts, spars and running gear are scattered about the wreck while the wheel and steering mechanism lie near the stern.

Fathom Five officials recommend this site only for advanced diving groups under the supervision of a dive master.

15. **Marion L. Breck:** schooner
Built: Kingston, Ontario, 1863
Length: 39 metres
Depth: 28 metres

The schooner **Marion L. Breck** is one of the oldest hulls within the boundaries of Fathom Five. Originally launched in 1840 as the **William Penn**, the schooner was rebuilt in 1863 and re-christened the **Marion L. Breck**.

Reputedly one of the fastest schooners in the lumber trade, she was wrecked on Bears Rump Shoal on October 16, 1900 during a gale.

Wreckage is badly broken up, making it an unpopular site. Recommended for experienced divers only.

16. **Forest City:** steamer
Built: Cleveland, Ohio, 1870
Length: 66 metres
Depth: 18 to 46 metres

On June 5, 1904, during a thick fog, the **Forest City** ran aground on the east end of Bears Rump Island while following another steamer out into the open waters of Lake Huron.

While navigating the passage between Bears Rump and Flowerpot Islands, the **Forest City** held to starboard — a deviation which abruptly terminated the voyage.

For several weeks the **Forest City** was stranded on Bears Rump Island, her bow wedged among the cedars. Stripped by salvagers, the steamer filled and sank. The bow of the wreck is badly broken up but the stern is relatively intact.

The site is suitable for highly advanced divers only and is not recommended for sport divers. The **Forest**

City dive area has been the site of fatal accidents.

17. **The Caves**

Located along the limestone cliffs of **Cyprus Lake Provincial Park**, 19 kilometres east of **Fathom Five Provincial Park**, a series of erosional caves make interesting and adventurous diving.

The caves are most easily accessible by boat from Tobermory. Just west of Halfway Rock Point is a partially submerged grotto which includes an underwater passage from the open water of Georgian Bay into a quiet pool overhung by limestone. The grotto was formed by ancient wave action on the porous dolostone of the Niagara Escarpment.

The cave interior is about 20 metres long by 9 to 12 metres wide. The entrance to the submerged grotto is about 6 metres below the waterline.

A smaller cave, located approximately 50 metres to the east is actually a natural arch. The use of a dive light is recommended and the site is considered suitable for all levels of experience.

18. **Daves Bay (Little Cove)**

Interesting geological formations such as pitting, glacial erratics and layered dolomite can be found along the south shore of the bay.

Depth: up to 13 metres

Limited parking is available at this access point which is suitable for diver check-outs.

19. **Dunks Point**

Interesting geological formations can be found at this dive site.

Depth: up to 13 metres

Divers of all levels of experience will find this an interesting location.



PHOTO COURTESY FATHOM FIVE PROVINCIAL PARK

(Continued from page 40)

Fascinated by the development of spring, Thomson undertook an ambitious project to capture each ephemeral moment on canvas. The end result was a series of 62 sketches which he called records.

At about noon on July 8, Thomson pushed off from shore to go fishing on Canoe Lake. His friend Fraser saw him paddle off in his canoe, waving and yelling good-bye to Robinson. Fraser watched him until he rounded out of sight behind Wapomeo Islands.

It was the last time he was seen alive.

His upturned canoe was discovered later that afternoon but his body was not recovered until July 16, floating on the lake. The official cause of death was recorded as accidental drowning.

Thomson was buried at Canoe Lake on July 18, 1917. At the request of his family, his body was exhumed and reburied at *Leith* three days later.

A report in the *Owen Sound Sun* eulogized Thomson saying *"that he has died on the threshold of fame makes his demise the more to be regretted."* Otherwise, there was little comment on either his life or his death. It would seem that only his family and fellow artists truly appreciated the loss Canada had suffered.

In a letter to J.E.H. MacDonald, A.Y. Jackson penned *"without Tom, the north country seems a desolation of bush and rock, he was the guide, the interpreter, and we the guests partaking of his hospitality so generously given."*

Speculation has run rife over the cause of Thomson's death and time has done little to dispel the various rumours. Many feel that Thomson was too accomplished a canoeist and swimmer to have drowned accidentally. To add fuel to these doubts, Robinson had openly disagreed with the official coroner's report that Thomson had a four inch gash on his right temple. Robinson was present when the body was pulled from the lake and insisted the gash was on the left temple.

Possible theories have ranged from suicide to homicide. Some claim that Martin Bletcher, a man with whom Thomson had argued on the night before his death, murdered him, while others point to Fraser and an argument over money he still owed Thomson. It was almost inevitable that rumour would surround Thomson's death: his life had been as brief and vibrant as the Algonquin spring he so loved and had ended as suddenly, leaving his passing the subject of speculation.

Up until 1956, some people maintained that Thomson was still buried in the Canoe Lake Cemetery. Surprisingly, when the grave site was eventually dug-up to resolve the on-going controversy, a skeleton was discovered. A small hole in the left temple of the unknown man concurred with Robinson's evidence about the location of Thomson's gash. But further investigation revealed that the mystery skeleton was only 5'8" while Thomson had been well over 6'. Investigators concluded that the bones were probably those of an Indian. But many, including the men who had dug up the grave site, were still not satisfied.

However, family and friends who knew Thomson firmly believe that his death was an accident and the mystery surrounding it purely fictitious.

Today, Thomson's works can be found throughout Canada with good collections concentrated at the *Art Gallery of Ontario* in Toronto, the *National Gallery*

of Canada in Ottawa, the *McMichael Canadian Collection* in Kleinburg, and the *Tom Thomson Memorial Art Gallery* in Owen Sound.

The latter gallery was built as a Centennial project in 1967 on the foundations of an old church in downtown *Owen Sound*. A temporary gallery had been situated in a small corner of the same building since 1959; however, with the aid of Centennial grants, the city was able to build a permanent gallery to honour Tom Thomson.

In a modern, bilevel structure, the gallery houses 700 items, over 650 of which were created by Canadian artists. In the lobby of the gallery, various photographs and letters of Thomson can be found. The original news clippings, yellow with age, are displayed announcing the disappearance and subsequent death of *Owen Sound's* native son.

The gallery has 22 oil paintings, six watercolours, 12 drawings, one penmanship panel and seven memorabilia items of Tom Thomson.

Visitors to Canoe Lake are reminded of Tom Thomson and his legacy to Canadian art when they pass by a memorial cairn erected shortly after his death by his fellow artists and friends.

The inscription was composed by J.E.H. MacDonald and fittingly pays tribute to one of Canada's finest painters:

*To the memory of Tom Thomson
Artist, Woodsman and Guide
Who was drowned on Canoe Lake
July 8th, 1917.*

*He lived humbly but passionately
with the wild. It made him brother
to all untamed things of nature.
It drew him apart and revealed
itself wonderfully to him.
It sent him out from the woods
only to show those revelations
through his art, and it took
him to itself at last.*

*His fellow artists and other friends and admirers
join gladly in this tribute
to his character and genius.*

Niagara Escarpment Commission

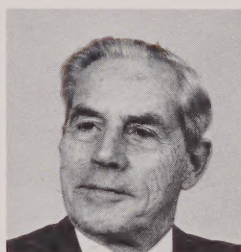
The Niagara Escarpment Commission is responsible for the development and production of a plan for the maintenance of the 725-kilometre Niagara Escarpment. The Commission consists of 17 members: eight members representing the public-at-large, eight members who are either members or employees of Escarpment area county or regional councils, in addition to a chairman. Ivor McMullin is the current chairman.

Representing Regions and Counties

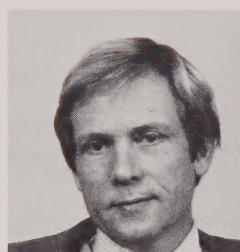
Representing the Public-at-Large



Niagara Region



*Robert McNair
Hamilton-Wentworth Region*



Robert Bateman



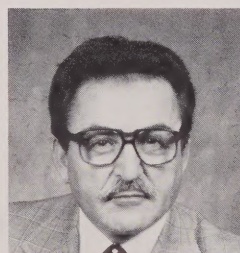
Maryon Brechin



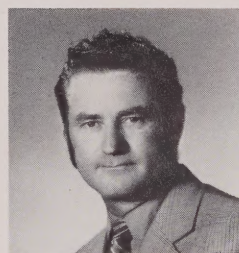
*Dave Whiting
Halton Region*



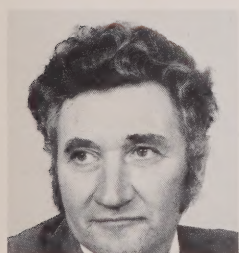
*William Hunter
Peel Region*



Leo Bruzzese



Robert Rutherford



*Paul Gallagher
Dufferin County*



*Carol Schnurr
Simcoe County*



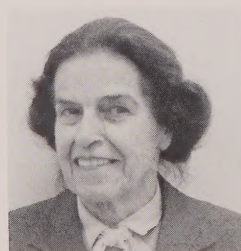
Robert Keast



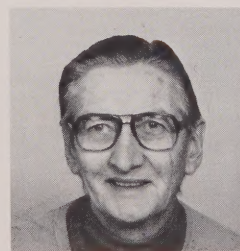
Milton Hayes



*David McNichol
Grey County*



*Bernice Limpert
Bruce County*



Raymond Lowes



Anne MacArthur

